

BSC (HONS) NURSING (CHILD) | PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDE

Thank you for taking an interest in our Children's Nursing programme! We very much look forward to welcoming you to the University of Hertfordshire, so you can join our thriving community!

In addition to your academic qualifications, we are also very interested in your personal statement that you include with your application. We select who we invite to an interview based on both of these, so it is very important that you get this right! We will only be able to invite you for an interview if you meet the required standard for both your qualifications AND your personal statement. We know that sometimes it can be difficult to know what to include in your personal statement, so we have put together this brief guide. We hope that telling you what we expect to see in it, will help you write it!

WHAT WE EXPECT IN YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

1. Why are you interested in Children's Nursing as a career?

Tell us what makes you want to become a Children's Nurse. How does it suit with your personality and your character? What has inspired you to become one and what are you hoping to achieve as a Children's Nurse? What are your aspirations for yourself, the people you will be caring for, and society in general?

2. What is your understanding of the scope of the Children's Nursing profession?

We want to see that you are aware of the great variety of areas you can work as a Children's Nurse. A good starting place to find out more about this (and other Children's Nurse-related information) is the website of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (www.nmc.org.uk). We cannot stress enough how important it is for you to explore this website, so make sure you do!

3. Do you have any experience of working or volunteering with children or young people or even with a children's nurse? What have you learnt from this?

There is nothing better than having first-hand experience of what a Children's Nurse does at work! This will help you see what it is all about and appreciate the various areas they work in. The best way to do this is to contact your local hospital(s) and ask them if you could go and spend some time observing or volunteering on a children's ward. Securing work or volunteer work on a children's ward can be very difficult, however we would like to see that you have some experience with children or young people. This can be in a range of settings e.g.

- You may volunteer at a children's / young people's club, this may be a church crèche, a sports club where you help coach the youngsters, a youth centre or other organisation.
- You may volunteer at an afterschool club, this may be with children with learning disabilities or other additional needs.
- You may have experience with children or young people through school or college placements
- You may have paid employment with children / young people
- You may work / volunteer with the adult population e.g. adult with learning disabilities or in a care of the elderly home, but know that age group is not right for you
- Whatever your experience we want to know what you have done and why it has confirmed your choice of programme – Children's Nursing. Remember if your experience is with 'healthy children' you may want to consider and tell us why Children's Nursing is right for you, not e.g. teaching.
- All the above is much more important than telling us about the subjects you are studying

4. What do you know about the National Health Service (NHS) and what do you understand about the Values that are embedded in the NHS Constitution?

- Don't worry, this is not as complex as it may look like at first. It is however very important and the best starting point is to get an understanding of the NHS first. We suggest you explore the website link below, but you can find plenty of additional webpages about the NHS by searching the internet: nhs.uk/NHSEngland/thenhs/about/Pages/overview.aspx.
- Once you are familiar with the basics of the NHS, make sure to have a look at the Constitution and the Values by clicking the link below: gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england.
- In your personal statement, we want to see that you have an understanding of the Values and we want to see examples from your own experience that relate to them. This is what we expect to see, so make sure you tell us!

5. What interests, hobbies or other experiences have you gained prior to your application to the University of Hertfordshire?

In addition to all the above, we want to know a bit about you as well. What are your interests? Do you play any sports? Or do you have any hobbies? Do you want to tell us things you have achieved and are proud of? This is your chance!