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Take Your Place is the programme which is being run by neaco in schools and colleges in East Anglia. Information about how your personal information will be used by us in connection with the administration of the Take Your Place programme, and for related purposes, is available at <https://www.takeyourplace.ac.uk/how-we-use-participant-data>.

We will also get in touch by email to facilitate your involvement in the Take Your Place programme. Please contact [info@takeyourplace.ac.uk](mailto:info@takeyourplace.ac.uk) if you have any questions about how we use your data.

Explore your options,  
Discover your potential

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YOUR  
PLACE**

A stylized illustration of a hand with a teal sleeve pointing towards the 'TAKE YOUR PLACE' text.

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[takeyourplace.ac.uk](https://www.takeyourplace.ac.uk)

Explore your options,  
Discover your potential

Preparing for a Nursing  
application

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An illustration of a hand with a teal sleeve pointing towards the text 'TAKE YOUR PLACE'. The hand is rendered in a simple, stylized manner with a light skin tone and a teal sleeve. The text is in a bold, teal, sans-serif font.

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# How can we help?

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- This PowerPoint is here to provide you with in-depth ideas to help and support you with writing a Personal Statement for a Nursing degree application, beyond the basic tips found online.
- We have put together reading lists, preparation ideas, work experience advice and top tips for the application process for a Nursing course at university.



# Why Study Nursing?

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As well as a £5,000 bursary for nursing students, reasons to study nursing include:

(<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/courses/nursing/seven-reasons-to-study-nursing>)

## 1. Helping others

Nursing is an altruistic profession, concerned with aiding those who can not fend for themselves.

## 2. Nurses are well respected

Nursing is a noble profession; those who pursue it are well respected and valued members of society. People like people who help people.

## 3. Nursing students have great Graduate Prospects

As with many medical degrees, Nursing boasts a very high Graduate Prospects score, meaning that employment is probable come graduation. 94% of nursing graduates are in work 6 months after graduating.

## 4. Nursing is exciting

As careers go, Nursing is reasonably high-octane, and so a typical day at the office could be an adrenaline filled, challenging and vibrant affair. You are not confined to the UK either.

## 5. Nurses can work anywhere

Become a registered nurse and your skills will be in demand throughout the country. You may even want to take your work abroad, and with the right qualifications you can.

## 6. Applicable skills

Nursing will offer you training in complex medical care, of which some are not dependent on any tangible equipment. By studying Nursing, your potential ability to save a life can be extrapolated to everyday scenarios, making you an asset to your family and society as a whole.

# Types of Nursing

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From <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/studying-nursing>

The first thing to decide is which field of nursing you want to study in, so use the links below to find more about them. In all of these fields you'll have the opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of people each and every day. The four fields of nursing are:

- [adult nursing](#)
- [children's nursing](#)
- [learning disability nursing](#)
- [mental health nursing](#)



You may also consider a career in an Allied Health Profession (AHP), which comprise 14 distinct occupations including: art therapists, dietitians, dramatherapists, music therapists, occupational therapists, operating department practitioners, orthoptists, osteopaths, paramedics, physiotherapists, podiatrists, prosthetists and orthotists, diagnostic and therapeutic radiographers, and speech and language therapists. If so, please check our Allied Health PowerPoint as well.

More info at: <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/allied-health-professions>

# An Academic Paragraph

One of the best things to talk about in a nursing application is your work experience or experience of care – BUT you need to think critically and analyse as well as list, to make it academic.

Having an academic paragraph in your personal statement is really important. You can use these reading lists and online courses to help analyse or as a work-experience substitute.

Makes notes as you go to refer back to later.

# Work Experience

From <https://www.ucas.com/advisers/which-for-teachers/help-your-students-get-into-uni/work-experience-getting-onto-degree-courses>

It is important that students use their work experience as a means of checking that a caring job is right for them, so reflect on this before submitting an application.

In addition, applicants have to demonstrate that they share the values and behaviours of the NHS Constitution. Work experience is the best way to provide evidence of these values for a UCAS application.

NHS Trusts offer a limited number of placements in their local hospitals (search individual NHS Trust websites for these) – but they stress that this experience does not involve giving direct patient care.

Remember that there are many settings where you can get general care experience or develop communication skills, all of which will be useful to you. Think about placements at:

- Nursing or residential homes
- Schools
- Mental health units
- Charities that help people with physical or learning disabilities
- Homeless shelters
- Hospices



Make notes as you go to refer back to later and think about why the things you see and do are taking place

# The 6 Cs

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From <https://www.england.nhs.uk/6cs/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2015/03/introducing-the-6cs.pdf>

The 6 Cs are a set of values for all health and social care staff in the NHS.

They are:

- Care
- Compassion
- Competence
- Communication
- Courage
- Commitment

Can you link your experiences (both work experience and extra-curricular) to the 6 Cs? This is a great way of not just showing what you have done, but what those experiences say about YOU.





# Reading Suggestions

There are many different sources you can consult to give you useful insight into nursing that you can use in your statement and to help with your interview later on. They include:

- The Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards - <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/>
- The NHS Constitution - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-nhs-constitution-for-england>

You could also look at quality newspaper and online sources to keep up-to-date:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/nursing>
- <https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/>
- <https://www.nursinginpractice.com/>

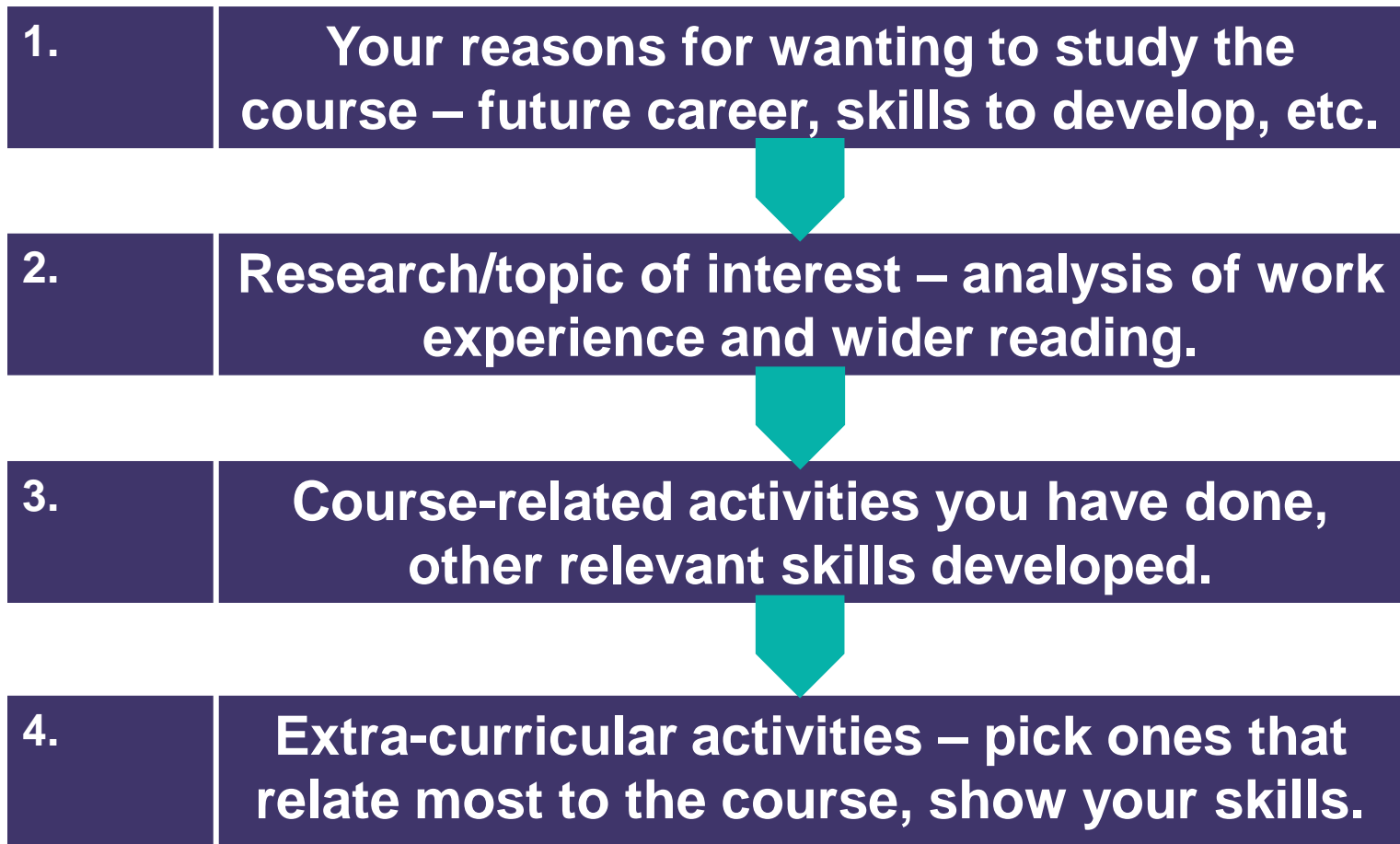
# Online Courses

- Free online courses from the Open University [www.open.edu/openlearn](http://www.open.edu/openlearn). Courses include:
  - The boundaries of care
  - Challenging ideas in mental health
  - Death and medicine
  - Introducing public health
- Udemy also offer free (and paid) courses [www.udemy.com](http://www.udemy.com)
- Coursera offer free and paid courses from 190 Higher Education providers.. <https://www.coursera.org>
- We also recommend this free course on preparing for university: <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/preparing-for-uni>



# Organising Your Statement - 4 Paragraph Method

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# Degree Apprenticeships

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Degree apprenticeships offer you the chance to work as a nurse whilst studying for your degree. You will be paid for your work and the NHS will pay your tuition fees.

There are limited places and competition is fierce, as you will be competing against those with experience working in related fields.

For more information, please see our PowerPoint on Degree apprenticeships, as well as:

- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/healthcare/nursing-apprenticeships>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nursing-degree-apprenticeships-factsheet/nursing-degree-apprenticeship-factsheet>
- <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-cadet-schemes>



# Interviews

Regardless of your route into nursing, you will be interviewed to assess your suitability for the course. This is nothing to worry about!

Each university is different, but most will want to see that you are committed to a career in nursing, understand what being a nurse entails, and have the right general approach to working with service-users and the public, including common-sense problem-solving skills. You can find some additional help here:

- Apply To Uni guide - <http://www.applytouni.com/applying/applying-advice/university-interviews/nursing-university-interview-questions/>
- Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) guide - <https://aru.ac.uk/study/interview-information/nursing>
- UCAS Guide - <https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/how-prepare-nursing-interviews>
- University of South Wales guide - <https://www.southwales.ac.uk/study/subjects/nursing-health-sciences/how-prepare-your-interview/>



# Personal Advice from those who made it!



**Hannah Lond,  
Children Nursing at  
Anglia Ruskin  
University**

*“My advice would be don't panic! You will get where you need to be, even if it doesn't feel like it right now. Now is the perfect time to do some further research into courses and universities you're interested in.*

*See if you can speak to some current students at the universities on an app like UniBuddy in order to get more information about the universities and courses and what they have to offer.*

*You could also try doing some online courses to expand your knowledge in other areas, particularly if there are topics that your current studies don't cover, but you have a keen interest in. Any opportunity to boost your personal statement and CV is always worth doing.*

*However, don't worry too much. It's a weird time at the minute, don't put too much pressure on yourself to feel like you need to get everything done. Everyone is finding it challenging to achieve everything they want to achieve, so be realistic with yourself and do what you can! Achieving anything - no matter how little or small - will help you so much forward!*

# My HE+

Thinking about applying to University and looking for ways to explore your subject beyond the curriculum? Then this website is for you. Each topic is produced by Cambridge postgraduate students and academics at the cutting edge of research in their field. The topics provide guided activities, questions to think about and suggestions for further reading.



The main subject pages also give you a quick guide to what it would be like to study the subject at university level and suggest some further resources to check out.

<https://www.myheplus.com/>

# Find Us Online:



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