



Nursing training updated

Information about training programmes
in nursing under the Nursing Professions Act
(Pflegerberufegesetz)

General nursing training

The occupation of “general nurse” merges together the previously existing occupations of general nurse, geriatric nurse, and paediatric nurse. Trainees learn to care for people of all ages and in all areas of care. This is known as general nursing. During training, student nurses learn about all different aspects of care. They undertake work placements in hospitals, care homes, mobile outpatient care services, psychiatric institutions and in care facilities for children and adolescents. One of these fields of care is selected to be the main focus of the training (specialisation). Depending on the choice of the specialisation, trainees can diverge from the general training scheme after completing two-thirds of the training and train as a “geriatric nurse” or “paediatric nurse”.

Qualified general nurses undertake professionally demanding tasks that they alone can perform. For example, these might include the assessment and management of individual care requirements, their organisation, and ensuring the standard of quality of care.

What are the admission requirements?

- ▶ Intermediate secondary school leaving certificate
- ▶ Lower secondary school leaving certificate plus successfully completed
 - minimum two-year vocational education and training
 - or
 - minimum one-year nursing assistant or aide training
- ▶ Successful completion of ten years of general school education

How do I apply?

The training contract is concluded with a hospital, a care home, or an out-patient care service. The application is therefore made to one of these institutions. Nursing colleges can help with finding a suitable training institution.

What does the training involve?

Training takes three years on a full-time basis, or up to a maximum of five years on a part-time basis. It is free of charge and student nurses are entitled to the appropriate training remuneration. Training alternates between teaching at a nursing school and practical training in the various health care institutions. The nursing school teaches both theoretical and practical aspects of nursing for the duration of at least 2,100 hours. The practical training comprises of at least 2,500 hours working at the chosen training institution and at other organisations also involved in the training. This practical training starts with an 'orientation assignment' at the selected training institution. This is followed by compulsory placements in acute in-patient care (in hospitals), in-patient long-term care (in a care facility for the elderly), out-patient acute/long-term care (with an out-patient care service), paediatric care (e.g. in a children's hospital) and psychiatric care (e.g. in a psychiatric hospital).

During the final placement – the 'specialist placement' which usually takes place with the provider of the practical training – the practical training element culminates in a state examination. All trainees – regardless of their chosen specialist placement – can continue their general nursing training in the third year and complete it with the vocational qualification of "general nurse". Graduates are qualified to work in all fields of care involved in nursing. The general qualification is also automatically recognised across the EU.



It is also possible – depending on the selected specialist placement – to focus the final third of the training on caring for the elderly, or for children and adolescents (optional). In this case, the final qualification is then “geriatric nurse” or “paediatric nurse”.

How much do I earn during training?

The training remuneration is set out in the training contract. No general binding collective agreement applies in nursing, and therefore the salary varies between federal states and the relevant training institutions. The collective wage agreement for trainees in public service covering nursing (TVAöD) applies (as of 2024) for those trainees starting training in public service institutions.

▶ 1 st year of training	€ 1,340.69
▶ 2 nd year of training	€ 1,402.07
▶ 3 rd year of training	€ 1,503.38

Can I also study nursing?

In addition to vocational nursing training, the professional qualification can also be obtained as a university degree taking a minimum of at least three years. Graduates receive a bachelor's degree and complete their studies as a “general nurse” with the additional designation of the academic degree. i.e. B.A. or B.Sc. The nursing degree has a general focus and teaches the specialised skills and scientific knowledge needed to act competently in highly complex care situations. The theoretical and practical knowledge is delivered via courses at universities and consolidated with practical placements in the different fields of nursing care.

General nursing training at a glance

Select the training institution



Conclude the training contract
and select the specialist placement



Duration

General training



1st and
2nd year



3rd year

Optional

Caring for
the elderly

Caring for
children and
young people

Professional
qualifications

General
nurse



Automatic recognition
in the EU



Geriatric
nurse



Paediatric
nurse



Where can I get more information?

Further information is available here:

- ▶ **BIBB brochure – Nursing training updated**
www.bibb.de/pub-pflegeausbildung-aktuell
- ▶ **www.pflegeausbildung.net**
- ▶ **Nursing training advice team**
For specific advice in individual cases, the “Nursing training advice team” of the Federal Office of Family Affairs and Civil Society Functions (BAFzA) is on hand to answer any questions. Contact details:
www.pflegeausbildung.net/beratungsteam
- ▶ **www.bibb.de/Pflegeberufe**
- ▶ **www.arbeitsagentur.de**
- ▶ **www.berufenet.arbeitsagentur.de**
- ▶ **www.berufswahlpass.de**
- ▶ **www.berufsorientierungsprogramm.de**
- ▶ **www.hochschulkompass.de**

Published by:

Bundesinstitut für Berufsbildung
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 114 – 116
53113 Bonn

Telephone: +49 228 107-0

Website: www.bibb.de/pflegeberufe

Email: pflegeberufe@bibb.de

Sales and distribution: vertrieb@bibb.de

Photo credits:

Cover image: iStock/Wavebreakmedia

BIBB/Hagedorn (Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences)

Licensing:



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License (Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International).

More information about Creative Commons and Open Access is available at www.bibb.de/oa.

The cover image is not under this license.