

## **Where to find Graduate Nursing Jobs**

### **What is a Graduate Nursing Job?**

Graduate nursing jobs can range from anything between becoming an assistant in nursing, becoming a personal carer or an enrolled or registered nurse.

Each year, thousands of university graduates aim to get into the nursing industry, so it is important to have a deep understanding of how you can actually get in. Knowing where to find graduate nursing jobs and how to apply for them are valuable assets which will help you in the future.

The first step of trying to find graduate opportunities, is to become AHPRA registered. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is responsible for ensuring the healthcare workers provided to the public are properly trained and capable. They provide nurses and practitioners with the guidelines, codes and standards that guarantee the nurses are registered to practise. AHPRA also publishes a national 'Register of Nurses', which the public as well as potential employers can view. Having qualifications accredited like this, assures the employers that you are capable to work and would be a valuable asset to their team.

When finding graduate nursing jobs, it may benefit you highly if you have experience in a hospital program. Graduate programs will provide you with experience and guidance in the industry you wish to get into. A post-graduate professional transition (PPT) is generally a 6–12-month program which is designed to ease your transition into the industry. In your graduate year, you will be working with clinical nurses, educators and consultants. These professionals will help you with any enquiries you may have as they have a great interest in your career. Your PPT should consist of formal courses, workshops, study days as well as education sessions. You will also have some days where you are allocated to a registered nurse and will learn and take care of patients under their supervision. These programs are designed to help you gain the experience and skills that you may not be able to gain through a university textbook.

Although programs like these are highly beneficial, it is important to understand that they are not mandatory. In some cases, post graduate students may have exceptional luck when finding jobs and be able to get straight into the nursing industry.

The next important thing to consider when finding and applying for graduate nursing jobs is to know when to look for them. Due to the highly competitive nature of PPT's, many nurses aim to secure a spot in these programs in the start of their second year. This will allow them to appropriately plan for what field of nursing they want to get into. It is also due to the fact often only 12 months later that PPT applications open for the year following university graduation.

While studying, many nurses try to secure a spot as an Assistant in Nursing (AIN). This will provide them with skills, knowledge and hands on experience in the field. By becoming an AIN, it will allow you to meet your mentors and create a strong bond with them. These mentors will shape how you experience your jobs and thus have a strong influence on the career path you wish to take.

So how exactly do you find PPT's and nursing jobs?

Your University or place of study should have a wide range of information and sources which will allow them to advise you on how to obtain a position as well which one may be suited

best for you. There may be programs undertaken by your university that they can get you positions in. However, it is important to remember that it is your career and any pathway you wish to pursue, you should.

Other institutions that offer graduate programs include both private and public hospitals.

There tend to be intake at the beginning of the year as well as mid-year for most large hospitals. Information about when these start dates are, how to apply for them and any other important information relating to the programs will be on the hospital's website.

However, if you cannot find any programs on the hospital's websites, a quick google search will point you in the direction that you wish to go.

Websites specialising in job searches such as SEEK, LinkedIn, Indeed and DefenseJobs will have a huge range of jobs in their data bases. They will also include a wide range of information about the job description as well as how to apply for them. Often students turn to websites such as these as they are a trustworthy source of learning about the company's the jobs are listed under. Websites such as these also make the application process much easier as they clearly state the prerequisites and qualifications needed.

It is important to remember that there are many nursing opportunities for you out there, and we are looking to help you find them!