

BECOME A REGISTERED NURSE (RN) IN AUSTRALIA

What is a Registered Nurse in Australia?

Registered Nurses (RN) are skilled healthcare professionals who are highly qualified and work as part of a team of skilled professionals. They often oversee the actions of more junior nurses. A career as an RN will provide you with ongoing education, support, rewarding working relationships and the opportunity to work in a wide range of environments with good financial rewards.

registered nurses work as part of a multidisciplinary team alongside doctors, surgeons, physiotherapists, specialty nurses, therapists and others to provide ongoing patient care.

Duties

- Observation and recording patients' health care conditions and physical situations
- Giving medication to patients and providing them medical equipment relating with their health care outcomes
- Preparing patients for examinations
- Assisting in operations and providing post-operative preparations
- Observing and recording patient behaviour
- Performing diagnostic tests
- Administering medication and establishing treatment plans
- Prepping patients for examinations
- Updating and maintaining medical records
- Helping in the treatment of medical emergencies
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Job Requirements

To become a Registered Nurse in Australia you need to complete a Bachelor of Nursing often on a full time basis, Bachelor of Science (majoring in Nursing) or Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Studies) at university. Apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) to practice as an RN. Registration must be renewed annually. RNs with several years' experience can move into more specialised roles (such as aged care, neonatology or neurological care), transfer into the medical administrative sector or become a nurse unit manager. Nurses may elect to work in any of the following clinical areas: burns, cardiology, cosmetic nursing, community, dialysis, education, emergency, family health, aged care, infection control, intensive care, management, medical nursing, mental health, neonatal intensive care, oncology, paediatrics, peri-operative, plastic surgery, rehabilitation, remote area nursing, research, rural nursing, school nursing, surgical nursing or wound management. To become an Rn you will need to exhibit these:

- AHPRA Registration
- CPR Certificate
- Vaccination
- Immunisations
- Interpersonal Sensitivity
- Computer Literacy
- Emotional intelligence

Student Visa Requirements

For international nurses you will also need to ensure you secure a student visa if you intend to study nursing in Australia. Therefore you will need to gain the following:

- a valid passport for the duration of your study in Australia
- offer letter from the selected university/institution
- IELTS score 7 overall and no score below 6.5 in each of the component; or PTE score 65 or OET score B
- At least 1 year of paid or unpaid experience within the last five (5) years. *
- evidence of access to sufficient funds*
- evidence of Overseas Student Health Cover
- successfully completed at least year 12 AQF or Australian Qualifications Framework equivalent*
- all other relevant documents listed on the Department of Home Affairs visa checklists

How to apply to be a Registered Nurse

You will firstly need to complete a Bachelor of Nursing for 3 years in Australia on a full-time capacity. Some schools and universities can provide fast-tracking which make you be able to complete the degree in 2 years, including clinical placements. Basically, you will study on campus, face to face, with some elements delivered online to pass all of your courses. Often there will be 840 hours of clinical experience via professional placements during your study in a range of health care settings. If you cannot achieve the Bachelor degree initially, it is worthwhile considering completing a Diploma of Nursing as a pathway, prerequisite/ prior qualification prior to entering the Bachelor of Nursing. Commonly a Diploma of Nursing can be completed on a full-time basis and completed over 20 months. Diplomas are completed face to face on campus and contains 400 hours of unpaid clinical placement in a range of professional workplace settings in order to help students boost their practical skills. After achieving a Diploma of Nursing, students can become and apply to be an Enrolled Nurse first. This can then be a pathway to further nursing studies into a Bachelor of Nursing and progression to become a fully fledged registered nurse.

The most important step for any registered nurse will of course be registering with the AHPRA (Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency) and meet the NMBA (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia)'s registration standard to work in Australia as a Registered Nurse.

For more details of requirements please visit this link:

www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx

Study to become a Registered Nurse in Australia as an international student

It is not secret that international students will face a lot of challenges and difficulty when they are trying to become a registered nurse in Australia. Beside the linguistic requirements of completing their IELTS test and meeting the minimal IELTS score, registered nurse also need to remember and use plenty of professional medical and clinical terminology during their work time. Also, they may experience different medical environments and requirements in Australia from their home countries. Therefore they need to adjust to these kinds of differences during their studying process of their Bachelor degrees.

Challenges

The work of a registered nurse can be quite different and mixed which depends on what kind of patients they are dealing with. Registered nurses often engage in shift work and are expected to work long periods of time. They may also need to work night shift or weekend work which can present social challenges if balancing work and family life. Sometimes more ambitious registered nurses may become a nursing leader, therefore with leadership comes a huge pressure and responsibility to make decisions relating with patients' lives. Also, they may have to decide which field they wish to work in further while they are working. Therefore as professional development is an important element of the career of a registered nurse it can be expected that registered nurses will need to undertake ongoing study, short courses and inhouse education training to further their skills. Therefore an openness to learning would be expected. Additionally all registered nurses can expect to be challenged with various patients, team members and high pressure circumstances, therefore all actions should be taken with a high ethical and moral standard at all times. Patients and their welfare must always be made a priority and emotions sometimes need to be left at the door as a registered nurse.

Salary

Registered nurses earn generally between 65k AUD to 75k AUD. However if you train and specialize in other clinical fields, you can expect the salary to be higher in some employers and depending if you work in private or public healthcare organisations.