Scholarships The Barber Surgeons Scholarship helps clinical nurses undertake education, research and clinical projects. Up to £5,000 is offered for fees or subsistence, normally for a taught master's programme. The scholarship can be awarded to an individual or shared between two candidates and is intended for nurses planning to return to clinical practice. Tel: 01865 224107

Moving and handling St John Ambulance is offering a one-day course on February 10 in Chelmsford. The course covers the handling of people in a care environment. Relevant for healthcare workers and providers, the programme follows a minimal handling and lifting policy. It includes guidance on handling aids, risk assessment, assisting people in beds and chairs, and encouraging mobility. www.sja.org.uk/training

Career skills A web-based career development resource, including life and management skills training, is free from Mindtools. Supported by exercises to expand and reinforce understanding, the site includes a range of in-depth self-development courses and online access to career and life coaches. Mindtools is pitched at new recruits to their chosen profession through to experienced staff wanting to develop skills in specific areas. www.mindtools.com

Voluntary service After the Asian tsunami, Pakistan earthquake and New Orleans hurricanes, many people have been inspired to volunteer their services in the short and long term. Voluntary Service Overseas offers people a long-term commitment to make a lasting impact on poverty and the effects of disaster. Many volunteers are older than 35 and recruited overseas, and by far the largest need is for professionals with management experience. Flights, living accommodation and a local wage are paid. www.vso.org.uk

Primary care training The Primary Care Training Centre based in Bradford offers an annual programme of diploma and certificate courses, study days and specialist training for all members of the primary care team. Topics covered include diabetes care, women's health, chaperoning, depression, long-term illness and developing the role of the care assistant in primary care. Tel: 01274 617617

Raise your profile

- Gain expertise in a specialty area.
- Get a master's degree.
- Get published.
- Gain experience as a guest lecturer.
- Get a teaching qualification.

(Hardicre 2003). This is interesting because it is common for lecturers to be appointed with no teaching qualification or previous experience in classroom teaching.

For me, working in higher education as a grade E staff nurse was a huge personal learning curve.

RESPECT IS AS IMPORTANT WHEN WORKING WITH STUDENTS AS IT IS WITH PATIENTS OR RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Earlier this year I started a postgraduate certificate in learning and teaching in higher education (PgCLTHE) at St Martin’s College, Carlisle, for which funding was offered as part of the secondment. Study leave was provided to undertake the course.

Reflecting on teaching practice for the course has helped me see that nursing, research and education have two common characteristics: people and paper. For example, respect and genuineness are as important when working with students as they are working with patients or research participants, while meticulous record keeping is essential in all three roles.

There are ways of boosting your application for a teaching post which, while not guaranteeing success, will help raise your profile (see box).

A secondment as a lecturer/practitioner is an opportunity to see if transferring into higher education permanently as a nurse lecturer is the right career move (See box below for some top tips).

If you decide to return to your clinical area on completion of the secondment then the

higher education lecturer

- Preparation is vital and you need to allocate time for this activity.
- ‘Coveritis’ is a common ailment among new lecturers, but it is not possible to cover the whole curriculum in one session.
- Nursing students come from a variety of backgrounds and mixed age ranges. Their life experiences can contribute much to your teaching.
- There is no magic formula to marking. Influencing factors include the marker’s experience of the topic and of lecturing.
- Failing a student can cause you great anxiety, but not doing so could result in a student qualifying who is not fit for practice.

Reference