

# Nurses the unsung heroes of healthcare

The Covid-19 pandemic has focused attention more sharply on the healthcare sector. In non-crisis times, nurses may be taken for granted and thought of as “handmaidens” (bedmakers, bedpan servants and bodywashers), and not as the true professionals they are today. But those who have chosen nursing as their profession know that throughout history, nurses have been the glue that binds the entire healthcare system together.

Who provides medical care for patients 24/7? Nurses.

Who observes, monitors, reports and takes action to address the slightest changes in a patient’s condition? Nurses.

Who provides community education? Nurses.

Who is at the frontline during crises such as wars and pandemics? Nurses.

Who, when off duty and is nearby, responds to save lives in the community if a member of the public suffers a heart attack while out walking or shopping, or has a vehicle accident? Nurses.

Who, when on holiday, can assist other passengers who may have medical problems during a flight or on other forms of mass transport such as trains, buses or cruise ships? Nurses.

Who educates new generations of nurses? Nurses (as nurse academics).



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And who researches the problems that nurses identify each day either when caring for their patients or educating new nurses? Nurses!

Yes, nurses, whether on or off duty or in the role of academics, are an invaluable asset to the community; they are essential to human life.

Nurses shoulder responsibilities that others may find daunting or too demanding.

Nurses are brave, putting their own lives in danger to provide care and comfort to others in need. They do not see themselves as heroic but as caring members of the community doing a job that needs to be done. Nurses are the unsung heroes of global healthcare, caring for patients with compassion and professionalism.

Nurses’ roles cover everything from providing calming words to using the very latest in hi-tech life-saving equipment to keep critical and intensive care patients alive. Nurses care tirelessly for the sick and injured, and work across medical (physical) care, social care, psychological care, research and education. And nurses are leaders. They are never afraid to make decisions, take appropriate action at the right time and voice their concerns and opinions, particularly if they see something that can cause harm or if

they believe there is a better way to do something. Nurses make a real difference to the health and well-being of the community and are essential within any healthcare system or facility. Nurses care not only for their local communities but also for the global community — both in a physical sense (working in different countries) and through sharing practical knowledge and research findings.

So, if you see yourself as someone who cares deeply about your fellow human beings and who wants to contribute to your community in the professional capacity of a nurse, the Sunway nursing curriculum offers you the best nursing courses and the tools to begin a rewarding journey. The opportunities for nurses to develop their clinical skills and research and education skills start here. You will not be misled into thinking that nursing is a “glamorous” profession. The truth is that nurses and the profession of nursing, while highly respected, are often taken for granted. But, in times of crisis, such as now, the whole world begins to realise just how valuable nurses are. When others lock themselves away, allowing fear to overtake them, nurses are at the frontline helping to save lives. If this is you, come to Sunway University. You will not be disappointed. **E**

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