

<i>Name</i>	Andrea Fernandez Ferrer
<i>How long have you been a nurse?</i>	10 years
<i>What inspired you to be a nurse?</i>	It was a mix between enjoying science and biology at school and wanting to have a dynamic job where I can help people.
<i>How did you get into this career? What steps did it take since leaving school?</i>	I didn't know much about nursing before applying but I have enjoyed a lot my career so far. I studied my Nursing Degree in Spain straight after high school. Then I moved to work for the NHS in the UK after qualifying. My first encounter with the NHS was as an Erasmus student in Aberdeen (Scotland) during my last year of training, it was a great experience!
<i>Can you tell us a bit about the training you undertook for your role?</i>	I studied in Spain and then obtained my NMC Pin to work in the UK. At that time, there was no OSCE or IELTS requirements, so it was a fairly easy process. I am now new to CCS and I have just started my training as a Specialist Community Public Health Nurse (Health Visitor), which I am enjoying so much.
<i>What's been the highlight of your career so far?</i>	I have enjoyed a lot working in many different settings, such as Oncology, Occupational Health or ICU. I now have the chance to take a different path and train as a Health Visitor, which is a great opportunity. I am finding the role of SCPHN in the community fascinating and look forward developing my career further in the field.
<i>What do you like most about being a nurse?</i>	I enjoy supporting people when they are going through difficult times. I have met wonderful people (colleagues and patients) in my career, and I have learnt a lot of life skills such as resilience to apply on my own personal life.
<i>What's the most challenging part of being a nurse?</i>	Working when there are shortages of staff has always been challenging, as you feel that you can't provide the care that people deserve.

<i>What are the main skills needed to do your role?</i>	I think resilience, empathy, being proactive and having good listening skills are important in any nursing role.
<i>Do you have any advice for the next generation of nurses?</i>	To learn as much as possible from other nurses and patients. All those difficult experiences you are going through at the beginning will provide you with lots of useful skills and resilience for the future.
<i>My wish for the future of nursing is...</i>	A future in which nursing is better valued in society and nurses can take a bigger role in developing research and influencing policy. Fair increases in salary would also be appreciated 😊