

**"In my role, I get to use my physics knowledge and work with advanced technology, but I'm also rewarded by knowing I'm helping people to get well. "**

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## **Katharine Kenny**

### **Trainee healthcare scientist**

#### **Employer or university**

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust

#### **Salary range**

£35k-£45k

Healthcare scientist Katharine Kenny

### **How I got into the role**

**Expand / collapse**

I studied physics at university and took options in medical physics and a Master's project in radiotherapy [1] drugs. I wanted to use my physics knowledge in a more applied way, so medical physics seemed like the perfect option.

### **What I do**

## **Expand / collapse**

As a trainee healthcare scientist in medical physics, my job includes monitoring patients who have had radionuclide therapy and advising them about safety, measuring x-ray image quality and planning radiotherapy <sup>[1]</sup> treatments.

## **The best bits and challenges**

### **Expand / collapse**

In my role, I get to use my physics knowledge and work with advanced technology, but I'm also rewarded by knowing I'm helping people to get well. I always loved science and particularly physics at school so when I got the chance I did a week of work experience in the Radiation Protection Department of King's College Hospital, London – my local hospital.

Having the chance to study for an MSc is an amazing opportunity and not something offered by many graduate schemes. In the workplace-based components, trainees get to take part in all the most interesting work of the department, as well as trying out small projects and observing clinical procedures.

## **Career plans and top tips for others**

### **Expand / collapse**

If you like science and interacting with people, try and visit hospitals to find out about healthcare science jobs. And if possible talk to people in a variety of jobs about their day-to-day work and interests.

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#### **Links**

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Radiotherapy>