Clinical engineering

Clinical engineering staff check and maintain medical equipment to make sure it is safe to use and operating correctly.

Hospitals and NHS staff in the community rely on an increasingly wide range of medical equipment to provide excellent care to patients, so your role is vitally important.

Life as a clinical engineer

You'll need a background in electronic or mechanical engineering and the confidence and willingness to take a hands-on approach.

You'll enjoy a varied and exciting role maintaining and ensuring the safety of a wide range of medical equipment. This could range from simple devices such as nebulisers to sophisticated and life-saving equipment like radiotherapy [1] linear accelerators.

With experience, you can develop your role and gain greater responsibility to modify and construct equipment.

You will be responsible for managing medical equipment through its life cycle, ensuring that parts are replaced, guaranteeing that machines are always safe to use.

A typical day may include:

- testing new equipment
- introducing equipment and devices into service
- advising on the correct use of equipment
- addressing patient safety issues
- safely disposing of old devices

Hollie Owen

Apprentice medical engineer

> It makes me feel good knowing that the equipment I fixed will go and help a patient get the treatment they need.

Read Hollie's story [2]

How much can I earn?

You'll be employed on a national pay and conditions system called Agenda for Change (AfC) [3] . Below are examples of the pay band you'll be on, depending on your role within neurophysiology:

- healthcare science assistant – B2/3
- healthcare science associate – B4
- healthcare science practitioner – B5
- Cclinical scientist – B6/7/8a
- consultant clinical scientist – B8a-d

How about the benefits?

- make a difference
- flexible and part-time working
- high income early in your career
- work anywhere in the world
- excellent pension scheme
- good holiday entitlement
- NHS discounts in shops and restaurants

How to become a clinical engineer

Starting your career in clinical engineering might be easier than you think. You could undertake study at university or find an apprenticeship that takes you straight into a job.

There are a wide variety of entry levels into clinical engineering such as assistant or level 2 apprenticeships, associate practitioner roles, level 4 apprenticeships.

There are also Bachelor degrees/degree apprenticeships, Master's degrees and Higher Specialist Scientist Training.

See 'How to become a healthcare science professional' [4] for details.

Must-have skills

- excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, patients and their families?
- emotional resilience, a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure?
- teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams?
- problem-solving and diagnostic skills?
- outstanding?organisational?ability and effective decision-making skills?

- first-class time and resource management for the benefit of patients

Entry requirements

There are several different ways to start your career in clinical engineering, depending on your experience and qualifications.

Apprenticeship

You could look for an entry level job/level 2 apprenticeship – typically GCSEs 9-4/A-C in maths, English and a science. If an apprenticeship feels right for you, you'll need 5 GCSEs at 9-4/A-C (or equivalent) including maths, English and science or Level 2 Diploma in Healthcare Science to start a level 4 apprenticeship.

Associate practitioner

An associate practitioner role is another route to a career in clinical engineering. You'll likely require foundation degree, or equivalent experience with training and experience to NVQ level 3.

Degree-level qualification

A level 6 apprenticeship or degree course require relevant level 3 qualifications, for example three A-levels (including at least one science subject) or an Access to higher education course.

Post-graduate

To start the NHS Scientist Training Programme, you'll need a 1st or 2:1 in relevant first degree or relevant higher degree and 2:2 in a relevant subject.

Higher Specialist Scientist Training is available for registered clinical scientists with relevant MSc or specialist diploma.

Where a career in clinical engineering can take you

Working in clinical engineering can lead to registration as a Clinical Scientist. You can then move into senior and consultant Clinical Scientist roles, through the Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) programme [5].

It can also lead to careers in academia, research, industry, management and leadership and training.

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- ## Medical Engineering Technician

  317 02 Royal Victoria Infirmary, NE1 4LP

  Salary:
  £31049.00 to £37796.00
  Type:
  Permanent
  Employer:
  The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Engineering Technician job (opens in a new window) [6]

- ## Trainee Medical Engineering Technician

  Great Yarmouth, NR31 6LA

  Salary:
  £26457.00 to £28347.00
  Type:
  Fixed-Term
  Employer:
  James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trainee Medical Engineering Technician job (opens in a new window) [7]

- ## Medical Engineering (EBME) Technician

  Rhyl, LL18 5UJ

  Salary:
  £27898.00 to £30615.00
  Type:
  Permanent
  Employer:
  Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Engineering (EBME) Technician job (opens in a new window) [8]

- ## Business Administration Apprentice – Medical Engineering

  Birmingham, B15 2TH

  Salary:
  > £14762.00 to £23874.00

  Type:
  > Fixed-Term

  Employer:
  > University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Business Administration Apprentice – Medical Engineering job (opens in a new window) [9]

- ## Specialist Medical Engineering Technician - Practitioner

  Sutton, NG17 4JL

  Salary:
  > £38682.00 to £46580.00

  Type:
  > Permanent

  Employer:
  > Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Medical Engineering Technician - Practitioner job (opens in a new window) [10]

- ## Senior Medical Engineer - Royal Site

  Liverpool, L7 8YE

  Salary:
  > £38682.00 to £46580.00

  Type:
  > Permanent

  Employer:
  > Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Medical Engineer - Royal Site job (opens in a new window) [11]

- ## Clinical Engineering Administrator

  Brighton, BN2 5BE

  Salary:
  > £27485.00 to £30162.00

  Type:
  > Permanent

  Employer:
  > University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

○ Clinical Engineering Technician Trainee

Dartford, DA2 6QL

Salary:
    £25427.00
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust

○ Senior Clinical Engineering Technologist

Nottingham, NG5 1PB

Salary:
    £38682.00 to £46580.00
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts

○ Senior Clinical Engineering Technologist

Aylesbury, HP21 8AL

Salary:
    £38682.00 to £46580.00
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

○ Chief Engineer

Nationally, SE1 8UG

Salary:
    £100000.00
Type:
    Permanent

Employer:

NHS England

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Chief Engineer job (opens in a new window) [16]

○ **Mechanical Engineer**

Poole, BH15 2JB

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Mechanical Engineer job (opens in a new window) [17]

○ **Rehabilitation Engineer**

Amersham, HP7 0JD

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Rehabilitation Engineer job (opens in a new window)

[18]

○ **Maintenance Engineer**

Tadworth, KT20 5RU

Salary:

£38000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Children's Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Maintenance Engineer job (opens in a new window)

[19]

○ **Mechanical Engineer**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:
     Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Mechanical Engineer job (opens in a new window) [20]

○ Decontamination Engineering Tradesperson

Cwmbran, NP44 8YN

Salary:
     £30420.00 to £37030.00
Type:
     Permanent
Employer:
     Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Decontamination Engineering Tradesperson job (opens in a new window) [21]

○ Mechanical Engineering Craftsperson

Wrexham, LL13 7TD

Salary:
     £30420.00 to £37030.00
Type:
     Permanent
Employer:
     Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Mechanical Engineering Craftsperson job (opens in a new window) [22]

○ Craftsman (Electrical Engineering)

Plymouth, PL6 8DH

Salary:
     £26530.00 to £29114.00
Type:
     Permanent
Employer:
     University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Craftsman (Electrical Engineering) job (opens in a new window) [23]

○ Senior Infrastructure Engineer

St Leonards on Sea, TN37 7RD

Salary:
     £38682.00 to £46580.00
Type:

Secondment

Employer:

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Infrastructure Engineer job (opens in a new window) [24]

○ Maintenance Engineer Electrical Technician

Poole, BH15 2JB

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Maintenance Engineer Electrical Technician job (opens in a new window) [25]

○ Electro-Biomedical Engineer (EBME)

London, SW17 0QT

Salary:

£44806.00 to £53134.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Electro-Biomedical Engineer (EBME) job (opens in a new window) [26]

○ Electrical/Mechanical Engineering Craftsperson

Bangor, LL57 2PW

Salary:

£31516.00 to £38364.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Electrical/Mechanical Engineering Craftsperson job (opens in a new window) [27]

○ Plumbing and Heating Engineer

Abergavenny, NP7 7EG

Salary:

£31516.00 to £38364.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Plumbing and Heating Engineer job (opens in a new window) [28]

○ Senior Specialist Engineer - Electrical

317 02 Royal Victoria Infirmary, NE1 4LP

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Specialist Engineer - Electrical job (opens in a new window) [29]

○ Windows 11 Network Engineer

Derby, DE24 8JE

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

DHU Healthcare

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Windows 11 Network Engineer job (opens in a new window) [30]

○ Vehicle Technician/Fleet Engineer - Nursling

Southampton, SO16 0YU

Salary:

£39150.31 to £45805.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South Central Fleet Services Ltd

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vehicle Technician/Fleet Engineer - Nursling job (opens in a new window) [31]

○ Laundry Single Skilled Engineer Apprentice

Cwmbran, NP44 8YN

Salary:
    £27898.00 to £30615.00
Type:
    Fixed-Term
Employer:
    NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Laundry Single Skilled Engineer Apprentice job (opens in a new window) [32]

○ **End User Computing (EUC) Engineer**

Manchester, M20 4BX

Salary:
    £37338.00 to £44962.00
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    The Christie NHS FT
Apply now on NHS Jobs for End User Computing (EUC) Engineer job (opens in a new window) [33]

○ **ICT Acute Customer Engagement Engineer**

Warwick, CV34 5BW
Nuneaton, CV10 7DJ

Salary:
    £28090.00
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    Innovate Healthcare Services
Apply now on NHS Jobs for ICT Acute Customer Engagement Engineer job (opens in a new window) [34]

○ **Vehicle Technician/Fleet Engineer - Didcot**

Didcot, OX11 8RY

Salary:
    £39150.31 to £45805.00
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    South Central Fleet Services Ltd
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vehicle Technician/Fleet Engineer - Didcot job (opens in a new window) [35]

- ### Unified Desktop Windows 11 Engineer

  Basildon, SS16 5NL

  Salary:
  > £31049.00

  Type:
  > Fixed-Term

  Employer:
  > Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Unified Desktop Windows 11 Engineer job (opens in a new window) [36]

- ### Cloud and Infrastructure Apprentice Engineer

  Cardiff, CF11 9AD

  Salary:
  > £24433.00 to £26060.00

  Type:
  > Apprenticeship

  Employer:
  > Digital Health and Care Wales

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Cloud and Infrastructure Apprentice Engineer job (opens in a new window) [37]

- ### Mechanical Plumbing Bias - Electrical/Engineering Craftsperson

  Bodelwyddan, LL18 5UJ

  Salary:
  > £30420.00 to £37030.00

  Type:
  > Permanent

  Employer:
  > Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Mechanical Plumbing Bias - Electrical/Engineering Craftsperson job (opens in a new window) [38]

- ### Specialist Rehab Engineering Digital Manufacturing Technician

  North Chailey, Near Lewes, East Sussex, East sussex, BN8 4JN

  Salary:
  > £37338.00 to £44962.00

  Type:
  > Permanent

  Employer:
  > Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust

○ **Clinical Fellow - Medical Specialities**

Chelmsford, CM1 7ET

Salary:
    £44170.00 to £57397.00
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

○ **Medical Secretary / Clinical Coder**

Pudsey, LS28 7XP

Salary:
    Negotiable
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    Mulberry Street Medical Practice

○ **Medical Secretary and Clinical Coder**

Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE6 3BS

Salary:
    £24930.00 to £26592.00
Type:
    Permanent
Employer:
    Walker Medical Group

○ **Medical & Clinical Administrator - East Staffordshire**

Lichfield, WS13 6EE

Salary:
    £24937.00 to £26598.00
Type:
    Permanent

Employer:
Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical & Clinical Administrator - East Staffordshire job (opens in a new window) [43]

- ## Further information

  - Academy for Healthcare Science [44]
  - Health and Care Professions Council [45]
  - Institution of Physics and Engineering in Medicine [46]
  - National School of Healthcare Science [47]
  - UCAS [48]

Other roles that may interest you

- Clinical or medical technology in medical physics [49]
- Medical device risk management and governance [50]
- Knowledge and library services [51]
- Health records staff [52]

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