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# Entry requirements, skills and interests (clinical bioinformatics - health informatics)

You'll need a relevant honours degree to apply for a training place.

## Entry requirements

You must have a 1st or 2.1 either in an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated master's degree in a pure or applied science subject relevant to the specialism for which you are applying.

If you have a 2.2 honours degree or better in any subject, you will also be considered if you have a higher degree\* that is relevant to the specialism for which you are applying.

(\*Higher degree as defined on page 17 of The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies [1]. Please note this does not include postgraduate diplomas or postgraduate certificates.)

Because of the extensive variation in degrees available, it isn't possible to provide a definitive list of relevant degrees for entry to the STP [2]. You need to be sure that you've reviewed the job description and person specification for the training (on the National School of Healthcare Science's website [3]), and the information on this page. You then need to be sure to match the skills and knowledge required to the content of your degree and the specialism you wish to apply for.

For STP [2] positions in informatics [4] (which include bioinformatics – health informatics [4]), the most commonly accepted degrees will be in informatics [4]: genetics [5], computer science, health informatics [4], physics, or engineering (degree courses with significant IT content or equivalent).

The strongest candidates for the STP [2] are able to demonstrate an understanding of informatics in a clinical setting.

For all candidates, evidence of research experience (e.g. in the form of a higher degree or equivalent evidence of scientific and academic capability) is considered desirable.

It can be advantageous to have gained some experience of working in a relevant environment before applying for a place on a course or job vacancy. You should always check with the course provider/employer to see what sort of experience is preferred or required.

For full details of entry requirements, including qualifications, scientific skills, transferable skills and physical requirements, please see the person specification on the National School of Healthcare Science's website [6].

Find out more about the training you'll receive for a career in bioinformatics (health informatics) [7].

## Skills, qualities and interests needed

To work in health informatics [4] as a bioinformatician specialist you'll need:

- effective communication and team working skill (but also the ability to work without supervision)
- an interest in science and technology, a good academic background and an ability to update and test your knowledge against experience
- to be comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment
- meticulous attention to detail - to produce highly accurate work even when under pressure.

If you work in a role with responsibility for resources (such as staff, budgets or equipment) you'll need excellent leadership skills and be able to use your initiative within the remit of your job role.

If you're applying for a healthcare science role or training position either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work.

The NHS values form a key part of the NHS Constitution [8].

Find out more about the NHS Constitution [9].

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**Source URL:**<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/clinical-bioinformatics/clinical-bioinformatics-health-informatics/entry-requirements-skills>

### Links

- [1] <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>  
[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#STP> [3] <http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/>  
[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Informatics>  
[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Genetics> [6] <http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/join-programme/nhs-scientist-training-programme/important-documents>  
[7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/informatics/bioinformatics-health-informatics/training-development-and-registration> [8] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS\\_Constitution](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS_Constitution)  
[9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/working-health/nhs-constitution>