

Compare roles in health

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Don't forget, you can also save your role comparisons by registering with us.

- **Microbiology (healthcare scientist)** ^[1]

Microbiologists study organisms such as viruses that cause infections.

Training and qualifications required

For the NHS Scientist Training Programme you'll need 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 relevant 2.2 honours degree, you'll also be considered if you have a higher degree in a subject relevant to the specialism for which you are applying. Evidence of research experience is desirable. To apply for Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST), you'll need postgraduate qualifications or considerable relevant experience as a clinical scientist, or both.

Expected working hours and salary range

NHS staff will usually work a standard 37.5 hours per week. They may work a shift pattern. Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales and your salary working in microbiology will typically be between AfC bands 6 and 9, depending on your precise role and level of responsibility. Trainee clinical scientists train at band 6 level, and qualified clinical scientists are generally appointed at band 7. With experience and further qualifications, including Higher Specialist Scientist Training, you could apply for posts up to band 9. Terms and conditions of service can vary for employers outside the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

An interest in science and technology, good communication skills, comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment, great attention to detail, good interpersonal skills and the ability to work as part of a team.

Prospects

With further training or experience or both, you may be able to develop your career further and apply for vacancies in areas such as further specialisation, management, research, or teaching.

Related roles

- [Biomedical science](#) [2]
- [Clinical immunology](#) [3]
- [Healthcare science assistants and associates](#) [4]
- [Haematology \(healthcare scientist\)](#) [5]

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