Compare roles in health

Not sure where to start with the hundreds of NHS careers? Use our compare roles section to get bite-size information on the entry requirements and training, pay and conditions, prospects and skills needed of up to three roles. If there is something that you think you could do, then get more in-depth information on the role.

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

- **Oral and maxillofacial surgery** [1]

Consultants in oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) diagnose and treat patients with diseases affecting the mouth, jaws, face and neck.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. For this specialty you'll also need a dental degree. Then you can complete either two years of core training (CT1–2) and five years of specialty training (ST3-7), or seven years of specialty training (run through training at ST1–7). Both routes of training will include your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

Expected working hours and salary range

Doctors may work up to 48 hours a week. The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working day to include early mornings, evenings and weekends. You'll first earn a salary when you start your foundation training after medical school. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon employed by the NHS, you can expect to earn a salary of at least £40,257, which can increase to between £84,559 and £114,003 as a consultant.

Desirable skills and values

You'll need excellent communication skills and be emotionally resilient, have a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure. You'll have the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams and have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills. As an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, you'll have: a high degree of manual dexterity; superb hand-eye co-ordination; excellent vision; visuospatial awareness and the physical stamina to cope with the demands of surgery.

Prospects

There are 383 oral and maxillofacial surgeons working in the NHS in England. In 2020 there were 32 applications for 10 specialty training places. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as head and neck cancer, cleft lip and palate surgery, trauma and aesthetic

facial surgery, teach medical students or postgraduate students in training or get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector.

Related roles

- Plastic surgery [2]
- Neurologist [3]
- Emergency medicine [4]
- Otorhinolaryngology (ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery) [5]

- **Virology (healthcare scientist)** **[6]**

Virology is the study of viral infections, such as rubella, herpes, hepatitis and HIV.

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 relevant pure or applied science subject. 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 virology 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, a good academic background and an ability to update and test your knowledge against experience; good communication skills; comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment; meticulous attention to detail to produce highly accurate work even when under pressure; good interpersonal skills and able 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 [7]
- Blood sciences [8]
- Cellular sciences [9]
- Infection sciences [10]

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[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/oral-and-maxillofacial-surgery [2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/plastic-surgery [3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/neurology [4] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/emergency-medicine [5] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/otorhinolaryngology-ear-nose-and-throat-surgery-ent [6] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/virology-healthcare-scientist [7] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/biomedical-science [8] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/blood-sciences [9] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/cellular-sciences [10] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/infection-sciences