

# 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.

- **Critical care science** <sup>[1]</sup>

Critical care science is about caring for patients who are critically ill.

## 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 such as physiology, pure or applied physics, engineering, biology or human biology, sports science (if there is significant scientific content). 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.

## 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. Trainee clinical scientists train at band 6 level, and qualified clinical scientists are generally appointed at band 7. With experience and further qualifications, 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

You'll need a mature and calm manner, with the ability to work well under pressure and concentrate for long periods; a confident but sympathetic approach; to be especially confident with technology, systems and processes; comfortable speaking in front of people and demonstrating things, able to stand or sit for long periods, be adept at using a range of tools and work well 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

- [Emergency medicine](#) <sup>[2]</sup>
- [Operating department practitioner](#) <sup>[3]</sup>
- [Knowledge and library services](#) <sup>[4]</sup>
- [Experienced paramedic](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

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## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/critical-care-science> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/emergency-medicine> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/operating-department-practitioner> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic>