

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.

• **Music therapist** ^[1]

Music therapists use the power of music to help people deal with feelings they cannot put into words.

Training and qualifications required

You need to have successfully completed one of the HCPC-approved postgraduate education and training courses in music therapy. Only then can you apply to join the HCPC's Register of Health and Care Professionals, and use the protected title of 'music therapist'. The training course take two years full time or can be completed over a period of three or four years part time. You'll need formal arts training and often need a music degree. A level 7 apprenticeship for arts therapists (art therapists/art psychotherapists, dramatherapists and music therapists) has also been approved for delivery.

Expected working hours and salary range

Music therapists work part-time and in some cases full time in the NHS. They usually start at band 6 of the Agenda for Change pay rates. Their working hours will generally be from 9am to 5pm but this may vary depending on their service and role. In other settings, their working hours will depend on where they work. For example, in education, they may work school hours, and during term time only.

Desirable skills and values

Music therapists need many skills including a high level of musicianship, excellent communication skills and the ability to empathise, creativity and imagination. You'll also need a desire to be part of the caring professions, flexibility, adaptability and openness.

Prospects

Some music therapists choose to specialise in a particular clinical area of interest such as dementia, child development, neuro-disability, mental health or palliative care. Other music therapists choose to work in two or three clinical areas depending on their interests. Music therapists hold both employed and self-employed posts, with some choosing to work both for an employer and at the same time offering a private practice. There are opportunities to

develop your skills and take on more managerial roles music therapists also hold posts such as head of arts therapy.

Related roles

- Creative therapy support roles ^[2]
- Dramatherapist ^[3]
- Art therapist/art psychotherapist ^[4]
- Clinical psychologist ^[5]

• Gastroenterology ^[6]

Gastroenterologists diagnose, treat and work to prevent gastrointestinal (stomach and intestines) and hepatological (liver, gallbladder, biliary tree and pancreas) diseases.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, MBBS. 2 years foundation doctor training, 2 years core training (CT1-2), followed by 4 years specialists training (ST3-6). This period of training will include your royal college exams . Most trainees dual accredit in general internal medicine and it that case specialty training is five years. 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, weekends and on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a gastroenterologist 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 to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families. You'll be emotionally resilient, have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills and work well in teams and under pressure. You'll also be very organised for the benefit of patients.

Prospects

In 2020, there were 373 applications for 79 specialty training places. Your career will mainly focus on hepatology (diseases of the liver) but you'll also be able to specialise in pancreaticobiliary diseases of the pancreas and biliary system, inflammatory bowel disease, tropical diseases, gastrointestinal cancer and its prevention, transplantation, clinical pharmacology and clinical nutrition.

Related roles

- Endocrinology and diabetes ^[7]
- Medical oncology ^[8]
- General internal medicine ^[9]
- General surgery ^[10]

• **Neurophysiology** ^[11]

Healthcare science staff working in neurophysiology investigate the function of the central and peripheral nervous system to diagnose and manage a range of neurological and non-neurological disorders.

Training and qualifications required

You could look for an entry level job/level 2 apprenticeship – typically GCSEs 9-4/A-C in maths, English and a science. To apply for an apprenticeship, 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. An associate practitioner role is another route to a career in biomedical science. You'll likely require foundation degree, or equivalent experience with training and experience to NVQ level 3. To start a level 6 apprenticeship or degree course, you'll need relevant level 3 qualifications, for example three A levels (including at least one science subject) or Access to higher education course.

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. As a healthcare science practitioner, you'd usually start on band 5, with opportunities to progress to more senior positions. 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 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 are important, as well as teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams. You'll have good problem-solving and diagnostic skills, outstanding organisational ability and decision-making skills, first-class time management for the benefit of patients.

Prospects

As you gain experience, and with further training, you'll be able to apply for vacancies in areas such as further specialisation, management, research and teaching.

Related roles

- **Neurologist** ^[12]
- **Neurosurgeon** ^[13]
- **Respiratory physiology and sleep sciences** ^[14]
- **Audiology** ^[15]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/music-therapist> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/wider-healthcare->

[team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/creative-therapy-support-roles \[3\]](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/dramatherapist)
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