

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.

• **Information and communication technology** ^[1]

Information and communication technology (ICT) is the development, management and support of the ICT infrastructure in health organisation, including the personal computers, email systems and mobile communications.

Training and qualifications required

ICT staff deliver a variety of different services so people with different qualifications, knowledge and skills are needed. You may have a background in web development or IT helpdesks, for example. Entry requirements will differ depending on the role but it may be possible to enter an entry-level post with no formal qualifications, but GCSEs or equivalent qualifications are an advantage. Apprenticeships in health informatics are also available. Other roles will require very specific professional qualifications such as computer science. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme also has a health informatics strand for graduates with relevant degrees.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most ICT jobs in the NHS are covered by Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. This pay system covers all staff except doctors, dentists and the most senior managers. ICT staff in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week but some evening or weekend work may be needed depending on the role. Terms and conditions can vary for non-NHS employers and contractors.

Desirable skills and values

Staff working in ICT will need good technical skills and an ability to diagnose problems systematically. Most roles will need experience and knowledge of Microsoft Windows operating systems and Microsoft Office packages. You'll also need problem-solving skills, experience of working as a team and be able to work under pressure. ICT staff employed directly by health organisations will need a good understanding of healthcare systems. Those employed by contractors to deliver ICT systems won't necessarily need this but it is always best to check any job descriptions and person specifications.

Prospects

There are opportunities to progress your career into senior management roles. Most NHS organisations will now have chief information officers who lead the delivery of ICT systems locally, regionally and nationally. Courses in health informatics are also offered by some universities at undergraduate and master's level. The NHS has also developed training courses to support you through your career. Many of these will count towards your continued professional development and may lead to a formal professional qualifications.

Related roles

- [Emergency care assistant](#) [2]
- [Clinical informatics](#) [3]
- [Clinical bioinformatics health informatics](#) [4]
- [Paediatric surgery](#) [5]

• [Genitourinary medicine](#) [6]

Doctors working in genitourinary medicine diagnose and treat people with sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine (MBBS), two years foundation doctor training, two years core training (CT1-2), followed by four years specialty training (ST3-6). This period 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 a doctor in genitourinary medicine 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 2021, there were 227 consultants in genitourinary medicine in the NHS in England. In addition, there were 30 applications for 38 training places. You could specialise or conduct research, teach medical students or postgraduate students in training or get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector.

Related roles

- Obstetrics and gynaecology ^[7]
- Paediatric cardiology ^[8]
- General practitioner ^[9]
- Medical microbiology and virology (doctor) ^[10]

• Medical engineering ^[11]

Medical engineering refers to the process of checking medical equipment to make sure it's working properly and is safe to use.

Training and qualifications required

A-levels (or an equivalent level-3 qualification) are required for entry onto the BSc (Hons) healthcare science (NHS Practitioner Training Programme); 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.; experience as a registered clinical scientist for Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST).

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, 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, meticulous attention to detail, 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

- Clinical or medical technology in medical physics ^[12]
- Medical device risk management and governance ^[13]
- Clinical informatics ^[3]
- Health records staff ^[14]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/information->

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