

# 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.

## • Occupational medicine <sup>[1]</sup>

Doctors in occupational medicine work as specialist clinicians and advisers to both the employer and employee on the relationship between work and health.

### Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. You'll then complete two years of foundation training and either two years of core medical training, or three years' acute care common stem (ACCS), or two years' core psychiatry training, or two years core training in anaesthetics, radiology or paediatrics, or three years' general practice training, or phase 1 of the faculty of public health training, followed by four years of 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 and evenings. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a doctor in occupational 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. Remuneration and other benefits can be greater outside of the NHS, especially for accredited specialists.

### 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

There are approximately 53 occupational medicine consultants working in the NHS in England. In 2020 there were 35 applications for 12 specialty training places. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as aviation medicine, radiation medicine, infection control,

public health or occupational dermatology. You could also teach medical or postgraduate students.

### Related roles

- [Acute internal medicine](#) [2]
- [General practitioner](#) [3]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [4]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) [5]

### • [Rehabilitation engineering](#) [6]

Rehabilitation engineering encompasses a team of people assessing and responding to the needs of people with disabilities.

#### Training and qualifications required

You'll typically need appropriate level-3 qualifications to apply for a place on a BSc (Hons) healthcare science in rehabilitation engineering NHS Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) or through the NHS Scientist Training Programme specialising in clinical engineering, for which 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.

#### 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

Effective communication skills, practically minded, and confident with technology, systems and processes, an interest in science and technology, meticulous attention to detail 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

- [Occupational therapist](#) [7]
- [Orthoptist](#) [8]
- [Reconstructive science](#) [9]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [4]

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