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.

- **Cardiac sciences** [1]

Cardiac science involves analysing known and suspected heart disease.

Training and qualifications required

There are various routes into careers in cardiac sciences. (1) You'll typically need three A-C grade GCSEs or level-2 qualifications (or equivalent) for a post as a cardiographer;(2) A-levels ideally including two science subjects or level-3 (or equivalent) for a BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (audiology) or Practitioner Training Programme; (3)through the NHS Scientist Training Programme 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 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; or (4) to be a registered clinical scientist to access Higher Specialist Scientist Training.

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. In cardiac sciences, depending on the role, you'll be in a post between AfC bands 2 and 9. For example, as a healthcare science assistant, you could be on band 2 or 3. 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

Able to communicate with people of all ages; think logically and adopt an analytical scientific approach; an interest in science and technology; comfortable using modern technology and

complex equipment; 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

- Cardiologist [2]
- Cardiothoracic surgeon [3]
- Neurophysiology [4]
- Respiratory physiology and sleep sciences [5]

- **Renal technology** **[6]**

Renal technology is used in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with kidney disease.

Training and qualifications required

Two or three A2 or A-levels (including science) plus GCSEs A-C grades to apply for the NHS Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) via an accredited BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Renal technology)

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, an interest in science and technology, comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment, 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

- Clinical measurement [7]
- Clinical engineering [8]
- Knowledge and library services [9]
- Experienced paramedic [10]

Links
[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/cardiac-sciences [2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/cardiology [3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/cardiothoracic-surgery [4] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/neurophysiology [5] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/respiratory-physiology-and-sleep-sciences [6] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/renal-technology [7] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/clinical-measurement [8] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/clinical-engineering [9] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services [10] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic