

# 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.

## • **Histopathology (healthcare scientist)** <sup>[1]</sup>

Histopathology comes from the Greek word 'histos' meaning tissue.

### Training and qualifications required

You'll enter this 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. 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. Working as a clinical scientist in histopathology, you'll typically be on AfC bands 6-9, depending on the precise role and level of responsibility. 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

An interest in science and technology, good communication skills, confident with modern technology and complex equipment, 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

- Biomedical science [2]
- Histocompatibility and immunogenetics [3]
- Knowledge and library services [4]
- Experienced paramedic [5]

- **Clinical bioinformatics (genomics)** [6]

You'll be helping to inform the best treatment for a patient based on their unique genetic make-up.

### Training and qualifications required

For the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP) you'll need a 1st or 2.1 either in an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated master's degree in a pure or applied science subject relevant to the specialism for which you are applying. If you have a relevant 2.2 honours degree, you will 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 considered desirable. If you're a registered and experienced clinical scientist, you may be able to apply 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. 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

Good verbal and written communication skills, an aptitude for science, an interest in physiology and medicine, confidence with technology and systems/processes, effective people skills, a willingness to take on a high level of responsibility and the ability to work in a team.

### Prospects

With further training and/or experience, 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 bioinformatics (health informatics) [7]
- Clinical informatics [8]
- Genomics [9]
- Histocompatibility and immunogenetics [3]

## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/histopathology-healthcare-scientist> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/biomedical-science> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/histocompatibility-and-immunogenetics> [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> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/clinical-bioinformatics/clinical-bioinformatics-genomics> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/clinical-bioinformatics/clinical-bioinformatics-health-informatics> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/explore-roles/health-informatics/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/clinical-informatics> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/genomics>