

# 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.

## • **Rehabilitation engineering** <sup>[1]</sup>

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 <sup>[2]</sup>
- Orthoptist <sup>[3]</sup>
- Reconstructive science <sup>[4]</sup>
- Experienced paramedic <sup>[5]</sup>

- **Art therapist/art psychotherapist** <sup>[6]</sup>

Art therapy is a form of psychotherapy that uses art media as its main mode of expression and communication. Art therapists/art psychotherapists use art as a medium to address emotional issues which may be confusing and distressing.

### Training and qualifications required

To practise as an art therapist/art psychotherapist, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). To register with the HCPC, you need to have taken an approved Masters degree in art therapy or art psychotherapy. You may be accepted onto a course without an art degree, if you have a strong art background. 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

Most art therapists in the NHS work part-time hours, pro-rata of a standard 37.5 hour week. Entry-level art therapy posts typically start at band 6 of the agenda for change pay rates. Band 7 posts now include not only delivery of clinical work but also supervision and evaluation. These may be open to newly qualified art therapists with suitable pre-training experience. Art Therapists employed at Band 8 level are expected to work as clinicians, supervise art therapists and other staff members, as well as contribute to research, evaluation and strategic service development. Art therapists may work some evenings, elsewhere, the working hours will depend on where they work. In education, for example, they may work school hours and prison work may involve early starts. Self-employed art therapists' hours of work depend on client needs. They may work evenings and weekends to suit private clients. Some art therapists have to travel between client appointments.

### Desirable skills and values

You'll need a range of skills including excellent communication skills, being able to work with people from all walks of life, being to reflect on their own emotions, creativity and being flexible

### Prospects

You could specialise in a particular type of client such as children, the elderly or offenders. Or you could become a specialist in a particular issue such as dementia, mental health or palliative care. As an experienced practitioner, you could become a senior or consultant art therapist, managing the work of a team of therapists. You could become the head of an arts therapy department, coordinating the work of therapists from other disciplines such as music or dramatherapists.

## Related roles

- [Creative therapy support roles](#) <sup>[7]</sup>
- [Dramatherapist](#) <sup>[8]</sup>
- [Music therapist](#) <sup>[9]</sup>
- [Arts manager/arts co-ordinator](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

## • [Mental health nurse](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

Your role is to promote and support a person's recovery, helping them live independent and fulfilling lives.

### Training and qualifications required

Entry requirements for adult nursing degrees and nursing degree apprenticeships are set by the individual universities and employers respectively, but typically you will usually need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above plus two A-levels or equivalent qualifications at level 3, such as a T level or BTEC. Some universities may ask for three A-levels or equivalent.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Mental health nurses in the NHS will usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week and will start at band 5 of Agenda for Change with opportunities to progress. Many mental health nurses will work shifts, especially within in-patient departments. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS, such as the police force or prison service.

### Desirable skills and values

Your personality and communication skills are crucial. You'll be warm and engaging while showing real empathy with service users and their individual circumstances. This may not only include the mental illness itself but also the social stigma associated with it. You'll also need to demonstrate the values of the NHS Constitution to become a nurse.

### Prospects

Some nurses decide to do into management or clinical academic research. You could also specialise in working with children, adolescents or women. You may also want consider areas outside of nursing such as a psychological well-being practitioner or high-intensity therapist. As you gain more experience, you might also be able to apply for jobs as a nurse consultant.

## Related roles

- [Learning disability nurse](#) <sup>[12]</sup>
- [High intensity therapist](#) <sup>[13]</sup>
- [Social worker](#) <sup>[14]</sup>
- [Counselling psychologist](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

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## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/rehabilitation-engineering> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/occupational-therapist> [3] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professions/roles-allied-health-professions/orthoptist](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/roles-allied-health-professions/orthoptist) [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical->

[sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/reconstructive-science \[5\] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic \[6\]](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic)  
[https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/art-therapist-art-psychotherapist \[7\]](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/art-therapist-art-psychotherapist) [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/creative-therapy-support-roles \[8\]](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/creative-therapy-support-roles)  
[https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/dramatherapist \[9\]](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/dramatherapist) [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/music-therapist \[10\]](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/music-therapist)  
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