

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.

• Children's nurse ^[1]

Child nursing involves everything from nursing a sick newborn to an adolescent road accident victim. You'll need to consider the care and support needed by the wider family, including parents and carers.

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, such as a T level or BTEC at level 3. Some universities may ask for three A-levels or equivalent.

Expected working hours and salary range

Child 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 child 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

You'll need to be able to reassure distressed children, their family and carers. Verbal and non-verbal communication skills are important as well as the ability to play sensitively with a child. It's likely that you'll need to advise or teach the child's parents/carers what they'll need to do to treat a child at home. Respect, sensitivity and empathy are also important characteristics for a child nurse.

Prospects

Some nurses decide to do into management, teaching or clinical academic research. With additional education and training, you could also specialise in roles such as health visiting, neo-natal nursing or school nursing. There are also opportunities to become nurse consultants.

Related roles

- [Neonatal nurse](#) [2]
- [Health play staff](#) [3]
- [Health visitor](#) [4]
- [Healthcare assistant](#) [5]

• [Clinical psychologist](#) [6]

You'll work with people of all ages on a wide range of psychological difficulties in mental and physical health. This can include anxiety, depression, psychosis, 'personality disorder', eating disorders, addictions, learning disabilities and family or relationship issues.

Training and qualifications required

You'll need an honours degree in psychology to become a member of the Graduate Member of the British Psychological Society which allows you to apply for post graduate courses in clinical psychology. You could also be a clinical associate in psychology (CAP), a mental health professional who provides psychologically informed interventions under the supervision of a fully qualified clinical psychologist.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. While training, clinical psychologists will be paid at band 6 and after completing their training, they will be paid at band 7. Clinical psychologists in the NHS work full or part time. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

On a daily basis you will use a broad range of skills, including a thorough knowledge of psychological theory and practice, an interest in how people think and behave and the ability to relate to a wide range of people including patients and colleagues. You'll need to be a patient, sympathetic and the ability to work on your own and in consultation with others.

Prospects

Clinical psychologists work in health and social care settings including hospitals, health centres, community mental health teams, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and social services. They often work as part of a team with other health professionals and practitioners. Most clinical psychologists are employed by the NHS, but some work in private practice. You could specialise (for example in clinical neuropsychology), apply for a supervisory or managerial role, go into research, or undertake further training to be a family and systemic psychotherapist.

Related roles

- [Counselling psychologist](#) [7]
- [Forensic psychologist](#) [8]
- [Health psychologist](#) [9]
- [Adult psychotherapist](#) [10]

• Healthcare assistant ^[5]

Healthcare assistants make sure the patient experience is as comfortable and stress-free as possible. It can also be the stepping stone into many other NHS roles.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements to become a healthcare assistant. Employers expect good literacy and numeracy and may ask for GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths and may ask for a vocational qualification in healthcare, such as a BTEC. They may expect you to have some experience of healthcare or care work. This could be from paid or voluntary work. There are sometimes apprenticeships in healthcare that can give you experience to apply for HCA posts. Your training as a healthcare assistant will include basic nursing skills. You may be offered the chance to study for qualifications such as the NCFE CACHE level 2 Certificate in Healthcare Support Services or the NCFE CACHE level 3 Diploma in Healthcare Support.

Expected working hours and salary range

Healthcare assistants usually work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. They may work shifts, which could involve nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. In the NHS, HCAs are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You'd typically start at AfC band 2. With further training and experience, you could apply for posts at bands 3 and 4 (as an assistant practitioner). Terms and conditions will vary outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

As a healthcare assistant, you need to be caring and kind, cheerful and friendly, physically strong (for pushing trolleys, lifting, etc), willing to be hands-on with patients, willing to do personal care tasks (washing, toileting, etc), able to follow instructions and procedures, able to work in a team but use your own initiative. You also need good communication, organisational and observational skills.

Prospects

With experience and further training, you could become a senior healthcare assistant. You could apply to train as an assistant practitioner, nursing associate or as a healthcare professional such as a nurse, podiatrist, midwife or occupational therapist for example.

Related roles

- Assistant practitioner ^[11]
- Nursing associate ^[12]
- Occupational therapy support worker ^[13]
- Healthcare science assistants and associates ^[14]

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