

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.

• **Audiology** ^[1]

Audiology is about identifying and assessing hearing and balance function and their associated disorders.

Training and qualifications required

There are various routes into a career in audiology. (1) You'll typically need three A-C grade GCSEs or level-2 (or equivalent) qualifications for a post as a newborn hearing screener; (2) A levels, ideally including at least two science subjects, or level-3 (or equivalent) qualifications 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 - physiology, pure or applied physics, engineering, biology or human biology, sports science (if 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 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 audiology, depending on the role, you'll be in a post between AfC bands 2 and 9. Eg as a newborn hearing screener you'd 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

- [Audiovestibular medicine](#) [2]
- [Neurophysiology](#) [3]
- [Ophthalmic and vision science](#) [4]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [5]

• [Support, time and recovery worker](#) [6]

A support, time and recovery (STR) worker helps adults and young people with mental health problems or a learning disability. By offering practical support and advice, they are improving people's lives across the local community.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements to become a support, time and recovery worker. However, employers ask for a qualification in healthcare and/or relevant experience - and may ask specifically for experience of mental health services. Employers also expect good literacy and numeracy. They may ask for GCSEs or equivalent. As an STR worker, you will go through an induction programme. You will have ongoing training to keep your skills and knowledge up to date. You may work towards a qualification in mental health at level 2 or 3.

Expected working hours and salary range

Support, time and recovery workers working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You would typically start on AfC band 3. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions at bands 4 and above. STR workers work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. They often work shifts, which could involve nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for STR workers working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

STR workers need to be willing to work with people with challenging behaviour, able to motivate people to make changes in their lives, accepting of other peoples lifestyles, understanding of people with mental health issues, flexible and adaptable to deal with unpredictable situations, resilient and able to remain calm in stressful situations. They also need very good communication skills (including listening), accurate report-writing skills, practical skills for everyday living and problem-solving skills.

Prospects

You could apply to train as an assistant practitioner or with necessary qualifications, as a mental health nurse or for a career in the psychological therapies.

Related roles

- [Occupational therapy support worker](#) [7]
- [Psychological wellbeing practitioner](#) [8]
- [Forensic psychologist](#) [9]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [5]

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