

# 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.

## • Nuclear medicine <sup>[1]</sup>

Doctors in nuclear medicine use radioactive substances to examine, diagnose and treat patients with life-threatening or chronic conditions.

### Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. 2 years foundation doctor training, 2 years core training (CT1-2), followed by 6 years specialists training (ST3-8). This period of training will include your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Doctors may work up to 48 hours a week. The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working day to include early mornings, evenings and weekends. You'll first earn a salary when you start your foundation training after medical school. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a doctor in nuclear medicine employed by the NHS, you can expect to earn a salary of at least £40,257, which can increase to between £84,559 and £114,003 as a consultant.

### Desirable skills and values

You'll need excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families. You'll be emotionally resilient, have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills and work well in teams and under pressure. You'll also be very organised for the benefit of patients.

### Prospects

In 2021, there were 63 consultants in nuclear medicine in NHS England. In addition, there were 16 applications for three specialty training places. You could specialise or conduct research or teach medical students and postgraduate students in training.

## Related roles

- [General internal medicine](#) [2]
- [Endocrinology and diabetes](#) [3]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [4]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) [5]

## • [Osteopath](#) [6]

Osteopaths prevent, diagnose and treat a wide range of health problems using manual therapy, exercise and advice. Their aim is to promote the best health, based on the individual needs of the patient.

### Training and qualifications required

To work as an osteopath, you will need either a Bachelor's (BSc) or Masters of Science (MSc) approved by the General Osteopathic Council and be registered with the Council. Courses typically last three to five years and are a combination of academic, research and more than 1,000 hours of hands-on patient-facing clinical training.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Hours will vary, depending on where you work - for example if you have your own practice. The average full-time equivalent income for an osteopath is £55,708. An associate (an osteopath working within an osteopathic or multidisciplinary practice) earns an average of £41,000. (All figures provided from the 2024 Institute of Osteopathy census of the profession). Approximately 6% of the profession work for the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

To work in osteopathy, you will need a patient-centred approach, an interest in people and how the body works, the ability to work by yourself and think independently, to be able to follow rules, a scientific, enquiring mind, curiosity and creativity, integrity, and the ability to take responsibility.

### Prospects

On graduation, most osteopaths choose to set up their own private clinics, working as a sole practitioner or with other healthcare professionals. They may then choose to pursue advanced clinical practice pathways through postgraduate training in a particular area of practice such as sports injuries, care of the elderly or working with children. There are also opportunities for study at MSc and PhD level. Non-clinical career roles also exist in teaching, professional development and research providing opportunities to create a varied portfolio career. In the NHS, osteopaths may choose to expand their post by taking on the management and leadership of a team or by pursuing an 'extended scope practitioner' role.

## Related roles

- [Physiotherapist](#) [7]
- [Podiatrist](#) [8]
- [Adult psychotherapist](#) [9]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [4]

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