

## 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.

- **Prosthetic technician** <sup>[1]</sup>

Prosthetic technicians give the gift of artificial replacements (prosthetics) to patients missing an arm or leg.

### Training and qualifications required

Although there are no set entry requirements, employers usually ask for five GCSEs (or equivalent) including English, maths and a science or engineering subject. A level 3 apprenticeship standard for prosthetic and orthotic technicians has been approved. To get onto an apprenticeship, you will need to apply for an apprentice position with a health care provider. Employers may ask for engineering or manufacturing experience. They may also ask for experience in healthcare, particularly for where you have contact with patients. You will be given the training you need for the job including an introduction to the department and its procedures, how to use the equipment and manufacturing processes. You may have the opportunity to study for qualifications such as NVQ or BTEC and to attend short courses on particular topics.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Prosthetic technicians working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You would typically start on AfC band 4. With further training and experience, you may be able to apply for more senior positions at bands 5. Terms and conditions will usually be different for prosthetic technicians working outside of the NHS. Most prosthetic technicians in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. They may work some evenings or weekends.

### Desirable skills and values

A prosthetic technician needs to be creative, good with their hands, able to work to deadlines, methodical and accurate and able to work from technical instructions. They also need practical skills, design skills, problem-solving skills, confidence using hand tools, the ability to work with different materials, IT and CAD/CAM skills and good communication skills if working with patients.

## Prospects

With experience, you could become a team leader, supervising the work of other technicians. With the required qualifications for entry, you could apply to train as a prosthetist.

## Related roles

- [Orthotic technician](#) [2]
- [Orthopaedic practitioner](#) [3]
- [Prosthetist/orthotist](#) [4]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [5]

---

**Source URL:** [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field\\_field\\_role=343](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field_field_role=343)

## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/prosthetic-technician> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/orthotic-technician> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/orthopaedic-practitioner> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/prosthetistorthotist> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services>