

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.

• Housekeeper ^[1]

Housekeepers help make sure that hospital wards and other settings are clean, safe and attractive places for patients and staff.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements. Employers expect a good standard of numeracy and literacy and may ask for GCSEs in English and maths. They may also ask for relevant qualifications such in hotel services or health care. When you start work as a housekeeper you will get the training you need to do the job. This includes an introduction to the department and the ward and its systems and procedures. You will also have training in health and safety and manual handling. You may be encouraged to take a qualification in housekeeping.

Expected working hours and salary range

Housekeepers working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You would typically start on AfC band 2. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions such as domestic services team manager or senior housekeeper at band 3. Housekeepers usually work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. They may work shifts, which, in some departments, could involve nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for housekeepers working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Housekeepers need to be physically fit for moving, lifting and cleaning, able to work as part of a team, friendly and caring, understanding of patients' needs, able to take responsibility for their own work, health and safety aware, flexible and adaptable and able to follow instructions and procedures. They also need good organisational skills and good communication skills with staff and patients.

Prospects

With experience, housekeepers can become team leaders, supervising the work of other domestic services staff. They can progress to become managers, responsible for a department or area. Housekeepers may be able to move into other areas such as facilities management.

You could move into a clinical support role, such as healthcare assistant or maternity support worker. Or you could apply to train as a nurse or other healthcare professional.

Related roles

- [Chef/cook](#) ^[2]
- [Decontamination science \(sterile services and flexible endoscopy\)](#) ^[3]
- [Healthcare assistant](#) ^[4]
- [Hotel services management](#) ^[5]

• [Cardiologist](#) ^[6]

Cardiologists diagnose, assess and treat patients with defects and diseases of the heart and the blood vessels, which are known as the [cardiovascular](#) ^[7] system.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, followed by two years foundation doctor training and two years core training (CT1-CT2), followed by five years specialist training (ST3-ST7).

Expected working hours and salary range

The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working day including early mornings, evenings, weekends and on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a cardiologist 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 2020, there were 533 applications for 131 specialty training places. You'll have the opportunity to specialise, for example in inherited heart condition or treatments for different heart conditions. You could teach medical or postgraduate students or get involved in research.

Related roles

- [Neurophysiology](#) ^[8]
- [Renal medicine](#) ^[9]
- [Respiratory medicine](#) ^[10]
- [General internal medicine](#) ^[11]

• [Radiography assistants and imaging support workers](#) ^[12]

Radiography assistants and imaging support workers are crucial cogs in the diagnosis and treatment of NHS patients.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements for radiography assistants and imaging support workers. Employers expect good numeracy, literacy and IT skills and may ask for GCSEs or equivalent. They may ask for a healthcare qualification, such as BTEC or NVQ and for relevant work experience. You will receive the training you need to work as a radiography assistant or imaging support worker. This includes an introduction to the department and its systems and procedures, using the equipment and health and safety. You may be able to study for the Certificate in Clinical Imaging Support (at level 2 or 3).

Expected working hours and salary range

Radiography assistants and imaging support 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 positions as an assistant practitioner at band 4. Radiography assistants and imaging support workers in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. You may have to work shifts, including evenings, nights and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for radiography assistants and imaging support workers working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Radiography assistants and imaging support workers need to be very safety conscious, interested in technology, calm and reassuring, able to understand and follow instructions exactly and physically fit as the job involves a lot of standing and lifting. You'll also need good communication skills, good observation skills and the ability to keep up to date and learn new skills.

Prospects

You could apply to train as an assistant practitioner or as a diagnostic or therapeutic radiographer.

Related roles

- [Imaging \(non-ionising\)](#) ^[13]
- [Diagnostic radiographer](#) ^[14]
- [Therapeutic radiographer](#) ^[15]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) ^[16]

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