

# 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 (healthcare scientist)** <sup>[1]</sup>

Nuclear medicine is the use of radioactive substances (such as radiolabelled pharmaceuticals) to help diagnose and treat patients.

### Training and qualifications required

A-levels including at least one science (or alternative level-3 qualifications) to join the NHS Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) by taking the three-year BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (nuclear medicine).

### Expected working hours and salary range

NHS staff will 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. 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, 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

A mature, calm, confident but sympathetic approach, confident with technology, systems and processes, an interest in science and technology, good communication skills, meticulous attention to detail and 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

- Pharmacist [2]
- Therapeutic radiographer [3]
- Experienced paramedic [4]
- Emergency care assistant [5]

## • Nursing associate [6]

Nursing associates work with healthcare support workers and registered nurses to deliver care for patients and the public.

### Training and qualifications required

To become a registered nursing associate, you will undertake a combination of academic learning and work-based learning. You will need to demonstrate your ability to study to level 5 foundation degree level, and commit to completing the Nursing Associate Apprenticeship programme.

### Expected working hours and salary range

During the two-year training programme, you'll work in a range of settings to gain as much experience as possible. This will mean travelling to placements and working a mix of shifts.

### Desirable skills and values

Your skills and responsibilities will vary, depending on the care setting you work in. You'll need to demonstrate the values of the NHS Constitution and a knowledge of physical health, mental health and illness prevention.

### Prospects

Registered nursing associates can go on to train as a registered nurse by putting their training towards a shortened nursing degree or completing a degree-level nurse apprenticeship.

## Related roles

- Healthcare assistant [7]
- Adult nurse [8]
- Assistant practitioner [9]
- Experienced paramedic [4]

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## Links

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