

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.

• **Histopathology (healthcare scientist)** ^[1]

Histopathology comes from the Greek word 'histos' meaning tissue.

Training and qualifications required

You'll enter this 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. 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.

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. Working as a clinical scientist in histopathology, you'll typically be on AfC bands 6-9, depending on the precise role and level of responsibility. 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

An interest in science and technology, good communication skills, confident with modern technology and complex equipment, attention to detail, good interpersonal skills 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

- [Biomedical science](#) [2]
- [Histocompatibility and immunogenetics](#) [3]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [4]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) [5]

• [Mammographer](#) [6]

Mammographers are [registered radiographers](#) [7] who undertake specialist postgraduate training to work within a breast imaging team.

Training and qualifications required

You'll need to be a HCPC registered diagnostic radiographer or therapeutic radiographer to apply for a postgraduate qualification in mammography. The training programme is typically a one-year postgraduate certificate or diploma at level 7 that combines academic learning with clinical training.

Expected working hours and salary range

If you're employed by the NHS, you will be on a national pay and conditions system called Agenda for Change (AfC). You'll usually be paid at band 6 with opportunities to progress with experience.

Desirable skills and values

You'll need being able to put people at ease during an intimate examination, good understanding of breast anatomy, physiology, and pathology, including clinical signs and symptoms of breast cancer and excellent interpersonal skills. You'll also need to be honest, open and trustworthy, comfortable with new technologies and have good problem solving skills.

Prospects

There are a range of career options for mammographers. There may be opportunities to specialise and work towards advanced/consultant practice. You could also use the skills you have learnt in management, education or research.

Related roles

- [Diagnostic radiographer](#) [7]
- [Therapeutic radiographer](#) [8]
- [Radiotherapy physics](#) [9]
- [Mammography associate](#) [10]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/histopathology-healthcare-scientist> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/biomedical-science> [3]

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/histocompatibility-and-immunogenetics> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/mammographer> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/roles-allied-health-professions/diagnostic-radiographer> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/roles-allied-health-professions/therapeutic-radiographer> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/radiotherapy-physics/radiotherapy-physics> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/mammography-associate>