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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.

- ## Security staff [1]

Security staff make sure that hospitals and other NHS sites are accessible and safe for patients, visitors and staff. They also protect buildings and valuable equipment.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements for security officers. Employers usually expect security staff to have some experience of security or customer service, particularly dealing with challenging situations. Employers may ask for relevant training and will expect a good standard of numeracy and literacy. They may ask for GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths and a driving licence. Staff joining the NHS as a team leader or manager need experience in security work or with a uniformed service such as the Army or police. When you join the NHS in a security role, you will have an introduction to the site, departments, systems and procedures. You will be expected to keep your skills and knowledge up to date by going on short courses on particular topics, such as conflict resolution or physical intervention.

Expected working hours and salary range

Security staff 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 at band 3. Security staff in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. The work involves shifts which include early starts, evenings, nights and weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for porters working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Security staff need to be able to understand a situation quickly, remain calm in stressful situations, confident and reassuring, resilient in dealing with other people's challenging behaviour, able to follow procedures, able to work alone or in a team, prepared to go into unknown or unpredictable situations and physically fit for walking and standing. They also need good communication, teamwork and customer service skills.

Prospects

With experience, security officers can become team leaders supervising other security staff. With further experience, you could become a manager responsible for the security of a hospital, area or trust or be responsible for security and related areas such as health and safety and fire safety. You may be able to move into other support services roles or into other areas such as estates.

Related roles

- Environmental health professional [2]
- Fire safety officer [3]
- Health and safety officer [4]
- Experienced paramedic [5]

- ## Education and training roles [6]

Educators and trainers in health informatics [7] are responsible for making sure that staff are able to use the latest technology so that the benefits it offers for patient care are realised.

Training and qualifications required

Entry requirements into education and training roles in health informatics will depend on the role and level you are at in the Health Informatics Career Framework. It is possible to start in an entry level post without formal qualifications but GCSEs or equivalent qualifications are an advantage. Apprenticeships in health informatics are also available. Education and training qualifications at QCF level three or above may also be needed for some roles. More senior education and training posts are likely to need a degree or equivalent experience or even a master's qualification. You should always check the person specification for specific posts to fully understand the requirements. The NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme also has a health informatics strand for graduates with relevant degrees.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most education and training jobs in the NHS are covered by Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. This pay system covers all staff except doctors, dentists and the most senior managers.You'll usually work standard hours of 37.5 per week. Terms and conditions for non-NHS employers and contractors will vary.

Desirable skills and values

Good communication and team working skills are needed for all roles within education and training roles. Many roles will also require good presentation, IT and organisational skills. You'll also need to have strong influencing skills, show political awareness and sensitivity as health is a complex system. You'll need to be enthusiastic, be able to work under pressure and on your own initiative.

Prospects

There are opportunities to progress your career into senior management roles. Most NHS organisations will now have chief information officers who lead the delivery of knowledge management systems locally.Courses in health informatics are also offered by some universities at undergraduate and masters level. The NHS has also developed training and courses to support you through your career. Many of these will count towards your continued professional development and may lead to a formal professional qualification.

Related roles

- [Knowledge and library services](#) [8]
- [Emergency care assistant](#) [9]
- [Health records staff](#) [10]
- [Patient Transport Service PTS call handler](#) [11]

Links

[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/support-services/security-staff [2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/environmental-health-professional [3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/support-services/fire-safety-officer [4] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/support-services/health-and-safety-officer [5] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/experienced-paramedic [6] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/education-and-training-roles [7] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Informatics [8] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-and-library-services [9] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/emergency-care-assistant [10] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/health-records-staff [11] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team/roles-ambulance-service/patient-transport-service-pts-call-handler