

## 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 <sup>[1]</sup>

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]

### • [Cytopathology](#) [6]

Cytopathology is a branch of pathology involving the study and diagnosis of diseases at the cellular level using a light microscope.

#### Training and qualifications required

With GCSEs or other level-2 qualifications, you can apply for a post as a cervical cytology screener and study for a Cervical Screening Programme Certificate in Cervical Cytology. There are sometimes opportunities to enter at associate level through an apprenticeship and work towards a QCF level-3 qualification in healthcare science.

#### 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. Terms and conditions of service can vary for employers outside the NHS. Salaries for healthcare science staff working in cytopathology will range typically range from AfC bands 2 to 4, depending on the role and level of responsibility.

#### Desirable skills and values

An interest in science and technology, good communication skills, comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment, able to follow clear instruction and procedures, pay great attention to detail and be able to work as part of a team.

#### Prospects

Once in post as a healthcare science associate or assistant you'll work towards relevant healthcare science qualifications (QCF, NVQs, foundation degrees (or equivalent)) while you're working. These are underpinned by an awards and qualifications framework.

### Related roles

- [Biomedical science](#) [7]
- [Cellular sciences](#) [8]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) [9]
- [Emergency care assistant](#) [10]

### • [Linen services staff](#) [11]

Linen services staff are the hidden heroes of the NHS. They make sure that hospital departments have stocks of clean uniforms and linen, such as sheets and towels, for patients.

### Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements for linen services assistants. 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 in hotel services or health care and experience of linen or laundry work or healthcare which could be from paid or voluntary work. Team leaders and managers have usually worked in linen services. When you start work as a linen services assistant you will get the training you need. You may be offered the opportunity to take qualifications in, for example, laundry services.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Linen services staff working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. As a laundry assistant, linen room assistant or sewing room assistant, you would typically start on AfC band 2. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions, including supervisor positions at band 3. Linen services staff in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. They may work shifts including early starts and evenings as well as weekends and bank holidays. Terms and conditions will usually be different for linen services staff working outside of the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

Linen services staff need to be able to follow instructions and procedures carefully, very health and safety aware, physically fit for lifting, packing and moving trolleys, able to use initiative, willing to take responsibility for their own work and able to work in a team. They also need good organisational and teamwork skills.

### Prospects

With experience, laundry assistants could become team leaders, supervising a team of assistants. With further experience, they could progress to become managers, responsible for a department or area. They could move into other areas such as facilities management.

## Related roles

- [Domestic services staff](#) <sup>[12]</sup>
- [Housekeeper](#) <sup>[1]</sup>
- [Facilities management](#) <sup>[13]</sup>
- [Porter](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

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