

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.

- **Medical microbiology and virology (doctor)** ^[1]

Microbiologists and virologists diagnose, treat and prevent the spread of infection, making a major contribution to clinical infection management.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine. You'll then complete two years of foundation training, two years of core training (CT1-CT2) and two years of specialty training in combined infection (ST3-ST4). Following that, there will be two years of specialty training in medical microbiology/virology. This period of training will include your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

Expected working hours and salary range

Doctors may work up to 48 hours per week. 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 microbiologist or virologist 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

There are approximately 444 microbiologist and 11 virologists working in the NHS in England. You'll have opportunities to conduct research and teach.

Related roles

- Infectious diseases [2]
- Chemical pathology [3]
- Haematology (doctor) [4]
- Histopathology (doctor) [5]

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Links

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