

## 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.

### Therapeutic radiographer [1]

You'll be a source of hope and care for those diagnosed with cancer. Using radiotherapy [2], you'll collaborate with other healthcare professionals to create individual treatment plans that blend technical expertise with emotional support for your patients.

#### Training and qualifications required

You need to study for an approved degree in therapeutic radiography. Degree courses take three or four years, full time or up to six years part time. To get onto a degree course you usually need two or three A levels, including physics, chemistry or biology/human biology, along with five GCSEs (grades A-C), including English language, maths and science. Alternative qualifications are likely to be accepted.

#### Expected working hours and salary range

Radiographers in the NHS work standard hours, which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. You may have to work shifts, including evenings, nights and weekends. You'll start at band 5 of the Agenda for Change pay scale. Terms and conditions will vary outside of the NHS.

#### Desirable skills and values

You'll need to be safety conscious, interested in technology, be patient and understanding and able to understand and follow instructions exactly. You also need good communication, organisation and observation skills and the ability to reassure patients.

#### Prospects

You could specialise in a particular type of treatment such as ionising or non-ionising radiation - for example the new area of proton beam therapy. Or you could specialise in treating particular types of cancer or in working with, for example, children. Research or teaching are other options. You could also move into management, either within radiography services or general management. As head of a local radiography service you would be responsible for a team of staff and for managing a budget.

## Related roles

- Diagnostic radiographer [3]
- Radiography assistants and imaging support workers [4]
- Radiotherapy physics [5]
- Radiation physics and radiation safety physics [6]

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## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/roles-allied-health-professions/therapeutic-radiographer>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Radiotherapy> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/roles-allied-health-professions/diagnostic-radiographer> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/radiography-assistants-and-imaging-support-workers>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/radiotherapy-physics/radiotherapy-physics>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/radiation-physics-and-radiation-safety-physics>