

# 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.

## • Assistant psychologist <sup>[1]</sup>

Assistant psychologists work in a variety of roles to support people with mental health conditions.

### Training and qualifications required

Applicants for these posts usually need a degree in psychology, recognised by the British Psychological Society (BPS).

### Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in the NHS are covered by the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay scales. Assistant psychologists in the NHS will usually be at band 4 and work standard hours of 37.5 per week. Terms and conditions can vary for employers outside of the NHS.

### Desirable skills and values

You'll need a skills, including a knowledge of psychological theory, an interest in how people think and behave and the ability to relate to a wide range of people including patients and colleagues. You'll need to be patient and sympathetic.

### Prospects

Working as an assistant psychologist can lead to training as a fully qualified clinical, counselling, forensic or health psychologist, because you'll have gained practical, hands-on experience while working under the direct supervision of an experienced professional. You may also be able to train as a psychological wellbeing practitioner.

## Related roles

- Counselling psychologist <sup>[2]</sup>
- Mental health nurse <sup>[3]</sup>
- Health psychologist <sup>[4]</sup>
- Psychological wellbeing practitioner <sup>[5]</sup>

## • Healthcare support worker <sup>[6]</sup>

Healthcare support workers work across a variety of settings, from mental health to children's services. The choice is yours. As a healthcare support worker, you'll work under the supervision of a healthcare professional, supporting them and helping patients on their journey back to full health.

### Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements to become a healthcare support worker, but good literacy and numeracy skills are expected, and in some cases GCSEs (or equivalent) in English and maths are required too. You may also need a healthcare qualification such as a BTEC or NVQ for some of our roles.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours and may include a mix of shifts, such as nights, early starts, evenings and weekends. As a healthcare support worker, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC) pay system, typically starting on band 2.

### Desirable skills and values

For some roles, some experience of healthcare or care work may be beneficial – this could be from paid or voluntary work, or through experience you bring in from previous roles. You'll also need to be caring, kind and willing to really get stuck into the role – it's a hands-on environment where teamwork, communication and organisational skills are vital.

### Prospects

You'll have access to world-class training and learn basic nursing skills. You'll also work towards gaining qualifications such as the Care Certificate. But that's not all. You'll gain plenty of on-the-job experience and be surrounded by experts who'll support you as you progress through your career. And with regular check-ins to discuss your career aspirations, you'll always be moving forward.

## Related roles

- Healthcare assistant <sup>[7]</sup>
- Maternity support worker <sup>[8]</sup>
- Nursing associate <sup>[9]</sup>
- Physiotherapy assistants/support workers <sup>[10]</sup>

## • Public health manager <sup>[11]</sup>

Public health managers make a vital contribution to supporting the health of the public.

### Training and qualifications required

There are a variety of training and qualifications requirements that may be required to work as a public health manager. It's important therefore to check the person specification of the individual employer for detailed requirements. Common qualifications include a degree in a relevant subject and project management skills or qualifications. It's also usual that applicants will bring significant experience from previous roles.

### Expected working hours and salary range

Your working hours are likely to vary depending on the employer and the nature of the work. For example, working hours may generally be from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday but there may be variations to this which are determined by the individual employer (such as for evening meetings, events or particular projects).

### Desirable skills and values

You'll be a competent and capable manager bringing a range of well developed managerial skills to your work such as organisation, planning, financial and people management. It's likely you'll need to make challenging decisions and to ensure best use of available resources.

### Prospects

Public health managers may progress to more senior management roles depending on their experience and interests. They may also wish to apply for public health specialist roles and undertake specialty training in public health.

## Related roles

- [Public health nurse](#) <sup>[12]</sup>
- [Public health practitioner](#) <sup>[13]</sup>
- [Project manager](#) <sup>[14]</sup>
- [Practice manager](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

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## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/assistant-clinical-psychologist> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/counselling-psychologist> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing/roles-nursing/mental-health-nurse> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/health-psychologist> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles/psychological-wellbeing-practitioner> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/healthcare-support-worker> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/healthcare-assistant> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/maternity-support-worker> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/node/4139/nursing-associate> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-support-worker/roles-healthcare-support-worker/physiotherapy-assistantssupport-workers> [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-manager> [12] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-nurse> [13] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/public-health-practitioner> [14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/management/roles-management/project-manager> [15] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/management/roles-management/practice-manager>