

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.

• **Reproductive science and andrology** ^[1]

Reproductive science is the science of creating life and providing solutions to infertility. Andrology focuses on the field of male reproduction.

Training and qualifications required

For the NHS Scientist Training Programme you'll need a 1st or 2.1 either in an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated master's degree in a pure or applied science subject relevant to the specialism for which you are applying - reproductive science or andrology. If you have a relevant 2.2 honours degree, you'll also be considered if you have a higher degree in a subject relevant to the specialism for which you are applying. Evidence of research experience is desirable. To apply for Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST), you'll need postgraduate qualifications or considerable relevant experience as a clinical scientist, or both.

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. As a healthcare scientist working reproductive science or andrology, your salary will typically be between AfC bands 6-9, depending on the precise role and level of responsibility. Trainee clinical scientists train at band 6 level, and qualified clinical scientists are generally appointed at band 7. With experience and further qualifications, including Higher Specialist Scientist Training, you could apply for posts up to band 9. Terms and conditions of service can vary for employers outside the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

An interest in science and technology, good communication skills, comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment, great attention to detail, good interpersonal skills and the ability to work as part of a team.

Prospects

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Related roles

- [Biomedical science](#) [2]
- [Genomics](#) [3]
- [Genomic counselling](#) [4]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [5]

• [Creative therapy support roles](#) [6]

Arts and crafts can be used as part of a person's therapy as a way of helping them deal with their issues.

Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements but employers expect good literacy and numeracy. They may ask for GCSEs (or equivalent) in maths and English and an interest and ability in one or more areas of arts or crafts, such as art, music, drama, cookery, gardening, photography etc. They may also ask for a qualification in health or social care and experience in working in the arts in a care or therapy setting. This could be from paid or voluntary work. Some staff enter by working as healthcare assistants or occupational therapy assistants in jobs which may include creative therapies. You will be given the training you need to do the job, including an introduction to the department and its procedures. You will also have training in relevant issues such as mental health or disability.

Expected working hours and salary range

Creative therapies support staff working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. Job titles vary and it all depends on the exact role you're working in. However, you would typically start on AfC band 2 or 3. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions. Most staff in roles related to the creative therapies in the NHS work standard hours which are likely to be around 37.5 a week. They may work some evenings or weekends. Terms and conditions will usually be different for creative therapies support staff working outside of the NHS.

Desirable skills and values

Staff in roles related to the creative therapies need to be creative, patient and caring, able to motivate people, accepting of other people's lifestyles, willing to work with people from all walks of life, happy to talk to and work with groups, flexible, able to work in a team but use their own initiative, able to follow procedures and able to deal with people with challenging behaviour. They also need arts and crafts skills, good communication skills and good organisational skills.

Prospects

You could apply for more senior roles - such as an activities team leader or supervisor, or train as an art, music or dramatherapist, or as an occupational therapist.

Related roles

- [Art therapist/art psychotherapist](#) [7]

- [Dramatherapist](#) ^[8]
- [Music therapist](#) ^[9]
- [Occupational therapy support worker](#) ^[10]

• **Knowledge and library services** ^[5]

Knowledge and library services staff help people to use knowledge and research evidence.?

Training and qualifications required

Most library assistant posts require GCSEs or equivalent qualifications. Apprenticeships in knowledge and library services are available in some organisations. Courses in this subject are offered by some universities at Master's level and are usually accredited by CILIP, the Library and Information Association. A full list of accredited courses is available on the CILIP website.

Expected working hours and salary range

Most jobs in knowledge and library services 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. Knowledge and library service staff in the NHS will 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 knowledge and library services. Many roles will also require good presentation, IT and organisational skills. Strong influencing skills, being outgoing and confident are also desirable. You'll need to be enthusiastic, able to work under pressure and on your own initiative. You will need to have at least five GCSEs, including English and Maths. More senior roles may require a postgraduate qualification in library or information science or an equivalent qualification or experience. You may also be required to be a chartered member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP).

Prospects

There are opportunities to progress your career in a number of ways, for example moving into senior management roles and working collaboratively with different teams in the organisation. Knowledge and library staff are actively encouraged to develop skills throughout their careers and continue learning from colleagues. There are opportunities for accredited professional development through our professional body CILIP, the UK's Library and Information Association.

Related roles

- [Public health knowledge and intelligence professional](#) ^[11]
- [Clinical informatics](#) ^[12]
- [Administrative management](#) ^[13]
- [Project manager](#) ^[14]

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