

# 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.

## • **Employment specialist** <sup>[1]</sup>

Employment specialists work with clinical teams to support adults and young people receiving mental health services to find or keep the right job for them.

### Training and qualifications required

There are no set entry requirements. Some employers may ask for a qualification in healthcare and/or relevant experience and will expect good literacy and numeracy. They may ask for GCSEs 9-4 (A-C) or equivalent. They may want to see that you have experience or an understanding of mental health services. You will have ongoing training to keep your skills and knowledge up to date.

### Expected working hours and salary range

The standard working hours are 37.5 hours a week, but you may sometimes be required to work outside the hours of 9am and 5pm. Employment specialists in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You may start on a band 3/4/5 depending on job location and experience.

### Desirable skills and values

You'll need to be a self-starter with a passionate belief that anyone can work and a good understanding of mental health issues. You'll need excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to build close, trusting and productive relationships with a range of people as part of a multidisciplinary team.

### Prospects

You may be able to progress to becoming a senior employment specialist or the team leader of a group of employment specialists. This will involve providing supervision, training, and mentoring to your team, and offering a pivotal role in managing a high-quality service. You could also choose to apply to train as a mental health nurse or social worker, or pursue a career in one of the psychological professions.

## Related roles

- [Social prescribing link worker](#) [2]
- [Peer support worker](#) [3]
- [Education mental health practitioner](#) [4]
- [Healthcare support worker](#) [5]

## • [Public health academic](#) [6]

Public health academics influence and guide policy-makers in tackling public health challenges, professional practice and research.

### Training and qualifications required

Qualification requirements will vary depending on the level of the role. To obtain a first lecturing position, you would require a postgraduate qualification, or equivalent, in public health or a related subject, together with some experience of working in the field of public health, preferably with evidence of having published your work previously

### Expected working hours and salary range

Working hours can be long, but are often flexible, so that staff may choose the timing of their teaching sessions and manage their own research and administration. You may also need to be available for some evening and weekend work (for example, for tutorials and seminars, conferences and events).

### Desirable skills and values

You'll have an interest in public health and enjoy research and teaching.

### Prospects

Although there are exceptions, the standard progression route is generally from researcher to lecturer, senior lecturer (or reader), to professor. Some universities in the UK have also adopted the title 'associate professor' for lecturer, and 'full professor' for professor.

## Related roles

- [Public health knowledge and intelligence professional](#) [7]
- [Public health consultants and specialists](#) [8]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) [9]
- [Experienced paramedic](#) [10]

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