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Arts manager/arts co-ordinator

The role of arts managers/arts coordinators vary. Some have public arts and design briefs for new builds or renovations, others involve participatory arts activities and public health agenda and community consultation.

This page has information on the role of an arts manager in the NHS, including entry requirements and skills needed.

Working life

Some hospitals and trusts promote arts and cultural activities for staff, patients and families to promote well being. You'll engage with a range of art forms including visual art, literature, dance, music, crafts, new media, combined arts, circus and drama. As an arts manager or coordinator, you may also be responsible for cultural projects such as

- using visual arts to improve the hospital environment
- encouraging staff and patients to participate in the arts
- staging exhibitions or concerts by staff and patients

- developing artist- , poet- or writer-in-residence programmes
- running books clubs or reading aloud groups
- coordinating other art forms - dance, music, crafts, new media, circus or drama, for example.

Your work may also involve

- raising funds to support arts projects
- agreeing an arts strategy and policies
- working in partnership with other organisations such as other health and care agencies, voluntary sector agencies, arts organisations, local authorities and funders

Arts managers and coordinators in the NHS are based in offices in a hospital or headquarters building. They spend time on hospital wards.

The precise nature of the work and job title will vary between health organisations and so when searching for vacancies, it is important to check each job description and person specification carefully.

Your work may also involve raising funds to support arts projects

As well as in the NHS, arts coordinators and managers also work in voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Entry requirements

There are no set entry requirements. The precise nature of the work and job title will vary between health organisations and so when searching for vacancies, it is important to check each job description and person specification carefully.

Employers usually expect arts managers and coordinators to have a relevant qualification at degree or postgraduate level.

Relevant courses include

- MA in Arts Practice (Arts, Health and Wellbeing) at University of South Wales [1]
- MA in Arts, Health and Wellbeing at Plymouth Marjon University [2].

Degree courses are three 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 an art or design subject, along with up to five GCSEs (grades A-C [3]), including English and maths

or alternative qualifications, including

- BTEC, HND or HNC
- relevant NVQ
- foundation court in art and design
- access course
- equivalent Scottish or Irish qualifications

For a postgraduate certificate, diploma or Masters, you usually need a good degree in art or design. You may

be accepted on a course with a relevant professional qualification in, for example, teaching, nursing, community work or social work.

Employers also expect arts managers and arts coordinators to have experience in delivering and coordinating arts projects. This could be from the NHS or elsewhere and could be voluntary or paid.

Skills needed

Arts managers and coordinators need to be

- interested in arts and how they are related to health
- creative
- flexible
- resourceful
- willing to work with people from all walks of life and all ages

You'll also need

- artistic and creative skills
- good organisational skills
- project management skills

Training and development

When joining the NHS, arts managers are given the training they need including an introduction to the trust and its systems and procedures.

Arts managers and coordinators are expected to keep their skills and knowledge of the arts world up to date. They are encouraged to attend courses and conferences. The Arts Counci [4]l [5] and London Arts in Health Forum [6] list courses and events where they can network with others doing similar work.

- **Pay and conditions**

  Most staff working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) [7] pay system. Pay rates for arts managers and coordinators will vary, depending on the precise role. Check individual vacancies for details.

  Most staff in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. They may have to attend meetings or events in the evening or at weekends.

  Terms and conditions will usually be different for clinical support staff working outside of the NHS.

- **Where the role can lead**

Arts coordinators and arts managers can progress by working in larger departments with more staff and a bigger budget. They go on to become the head of arts for a trust.

There are opportunities outside the NHS.

- ## Job market and vacancies

  Most NHS trusts advertise their vacancies on NHS Jobs [8]. Some advertise on their own websites. You can find a list of NHS organisations NHS Choices [9].

  The Arts Council [4] and London Arts in Health Forum [6] advertise jobs throughout the UK on their websites.

  If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services, you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work.

  Find out more about NHS values. [10]

- ## Further information

  - Arts Council [4]
  - London Arts in Health Forum [6]

Other roles that may interest you

- Dramatherapist [11]
- Music therapist [12]
- Estates manager [13]
- Clinical bioinformatics health informatics [14]

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Links
[1] https://www.southwales.ac.uk/courses/ma-arts-practice-art-health-and-wellbeing/
[2] https://www.marjon.ac.uk/courses/arts-health-wellbeing-masters/
[3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Grades_A-C [4] https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/
[5] http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/ [6] https://www.lahf.org.uk/
[7] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/careers-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates
[8] http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/
[9] http://www.nhs.uk/aboutnhs/howthenhsworks/authoritiesandtrusts/Pages/Authoritiesandtrusts.aspx
[10] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/working-health/nhs-constitution
[11] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/dramatherapist

[12] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/music-therapist [13] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/management/roles-management/estates-manager [14] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/clinical-bioinformatics/clinical-bioinformatics-health-informatics