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Entry requirements, skills and interests (reproductive science and andrology)

You can enter reproductive science or andrology as a graduate or as an experienced and registered clinical scientist. You could also enter andrology as a registered and experienced biomedical scientist.

Entry requirements

There are currently two entry points into reproductive science or andrology:

- You can apply for a place on the graduate-entry NHS Scientist Training Programme [1] for which you must have 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.

If you have a 2.2 honours degree or better in any subject, you will also be considered if you have a higher degree* that is relevant to the specialism for which you are applying.

(*Higher degree as defined on page 17 of The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies [2] Please note this does not include postgraduate diplomas or postgraduate certificates.)

Because of the extensive variation in degrees available it isn't possible to provide a definitive list of relevant degrees for entry to the STP [3]. For STP [3] positions in the life sciences (which include reproductive science), the most commonly accepted degrees will be in biomedical sciences, biology, microbiology, genetics [4] or biochemistry.

You need to be sure that you've reviewed the job description and person specification for the training (on the National School of Healthcare Science's website [5]), and the information on this page. You then need to be sure to match the skills and knowledge required to the content of your degree and the specialism you wish to apply for.

For full details of entry requirements for the STP [3], including qualifications, scientific skills, transferable skills and physical requirements, please see the person specification on the National School of Healthcare Science's website [6].

- You could also enter andrology as a registered and experienced biomedical scientist [7].

Find out more about working in reproductive science or andrology [8]

Find out more about the training you'll receive and registration for a career in reproductive science or andrology [9].

It can be advantageous to have gained some experience of working in a relevant environment before applying for a place on a course or job vacancy. You should always check with the course provider or the employer to see what sort of experience is preferred or required.

- **Skills, qualities and interests needed**

To work in reproductive science or andrology, you'll need:

- an interest in science and technology, a good academic background and an ability to update and test your knowledge against experience
- good communication skills to be able to liaise with the healthcare team and also to advise and reassure patients
- to be comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment
- meticulous attention to detail to produce highly accurate work even when under pressure
- good interpersonal skills - you may have direct contact with patients and you must respect their privacy, be sympathetic and have a friendly and professional attitude towards them
- to be able to work as part of a team.

If you work in a role with responsibility for resources (such as staff, budgets or equipment) you'll need excellent leadership skills and be able to use your initiative within the remit of your job role.

If you're applying for a healthcare science role or training position 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.

The NHS values form a key part of the NHS Constitution [10].

Find out more about the NHS Constitution [11].

Source URL:<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/reproductive-science-and-andrology/entry-requirements-skills-and-interests>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/graduate-training-opportunities/nhs-scientist-training-programme> [2] <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/qualifications-frameworks.pdf> [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#STP> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Genetics> [5] <http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/> [6] <http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/join-programme/nhs-scientist-training-programme/important-documents> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/life-sciences/Biomedical-science> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/life-sciences/reproductive-science-and-andrology> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/life-sciences/reproductive-science/training-development-and-registration> [10] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#NHS_Constitution [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/working-health/nhs-constitution>