

Published on *Health Careers* (https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)

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Training, development and registration (clinical or medical technology)

Your training depends on the level at which you're entering this area of healthcare science.

The education and training you take, will depend on the level at which you are entering.

- To enter through the NHS Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) [1] you'll take a full-time (usually 3-year) accredited integrated BSc degree in healthcare science (medical physics or clinical engineering) at university. At least 50 weeks of workplace-based training in the NHS is included in these programmes. For the most up to date list of accredited BSc healthcare science degrees, please use our course finder [2]. Applications for full-time courses are made through UCAS [3].
- as a graduate entering the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP) [4] you'll be employed in a fixed-term, salaried training post in a post in clinical engineering (in rehabilitation engineering, clinical measurement and development, or medical device risk management and governance) or medical physics (in radiotherapy [5] physics, radiation safety physics, imaging (ionising radiation) or imaging (non-ionising radiation). You will study towards a Master's degree in clinical science.

Programmes are often supported by the development of workplace-based assessment tools, assessment of equivalent learning and the development of academic careers.

Find out more about the entry requirements, skills and interests required to enter a career in clinical or medical technology. [6]

CPD, ASP and registration

Continuing professional development

No matter what level you are working at, as part of your development you will be expected to do continuing professional development (CPD) to show that you are keeping yourself up to date with the policies and procedures in your area of work.

Find out more general information about professional development [7]

Accredited Scientific Practice- development opportunities for healthcare science staff

Accredited Scientific Practice (ASP) provides an additional route for your ongoing professional and scientific development as part of the healthcare science (HCS) workforce. ASP allows employers to develop bespoke, responsive, short course programmes to meet training needs within the HCS workforce. ASP programmes provide you with a quality assured, rigorously assessed qualification which can lead to voluntary professional registration with the Academy for Healthcare Sciences (AHCS).

An ASP programme involves work based learning with academic study of modules from the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) portfolio programmes. Access to an e-portfolio is provided to record learning in the workplace while associated academic study is completed independently through an accredited university provider. In some cases, completion of academic study may also lead to an award of a postgraduate qualification from the university provider.

Read more about ASP on the NSHCS website [8].

Registration

In order to practise in the UK as a clinical scientist, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council [9].

For registration as a clinical scientist, you'll need to hold an Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) Certificate of Attainment granted upon completion of the MSC Scientist Training Programme or AHCS Certificate of Equivalence.

Find out more about the Academy's Certificates on its website [10].

Please check individual job vacancy details for information when applying.

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[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/studying-healthcare-science [2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/looking-course [3] http://www.ucas.com [4] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/not-studying-health-related-degree/nhs-scientist-training-programme [5] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Radiotherapy [6] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/physical-sciences-and-biomechanical-engineering/clinical-technologist/entry [7] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/professional-development [8] http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/join-a-programme-asp/accredited-scientific-practice [9] http://www.hcpc-uk.org [10] http://www.ahcs.ac.uk/