

# Training, development and registration (ophthalmic and vision science)

Training is available at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

## Training and education programmes

The education and training you will take, will depend upon the level at which you're working.

- To enter through the NHS Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) [1] you'll need to take a full-time (usually 3-year) accredited integrated BSc degree in healthcare science (ophthalmic and vision science) at university. At least 50 weeks of workplace-based training in the NHS is included in these programmes. Please note that no universities are currently approved to run this particular degree, (in which you can specialise in ophthalmic and vision science). However, when they do become available, you will be able to use our [course finder](#) [2] to get a list of the universities approved to run it. Applications for full-time courses are made through UCAS [3].
- If you're a graduate entering the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP) [4] you'll be employed in a fixed-term, salaried training post and will study towards a relevant Master's degree in clinical science (neurosensory sciences).
- If you're entering Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) [5] you'll study towards doctoral level qualifications.

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 ophthalmic and vision science [6].

- CPD and registration

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### 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**

If you're working as a clinical scientist, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) [9]. You must also 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].

For those parts of the workforce not regulated by the HCPC [11], professional voluntary registers are in operation. As a healthcare science practitioner in ophthalmic and vision science, you can join the voluntary register maintained by the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS).

Find out more about the Academy's voluntary register for healthcare science practitioners [12].

Please check individual job vacancy details for information when applying.

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/ophthalmic-and-vision-science/training-development-and-registration>

## **Links**

[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/i-am/working-health/nhs-higher-specialist-scientific-training>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/physiological-sciences/ophthalmic-and-vision-science/entry-requirements-skills-and>

[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/>

[11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#HCPC>

[12] <http://www.ahcs.ac.uk/the-register/join-the-register/>