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Training, development and registration (vascular science)

Your training will depend on the level at which you're entering your career in vascular science.

Training and education programmes

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

- if you're a graduate entering the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP) [1] you'll be employed in a fixed-term, salaried training post and will study towards a relevant Master's degree in clinical science (cardiac, vascular, respiratory [2] and sleep sciences)
- if you're entering Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) [3] 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.

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. Experience of direct contact with the public - particularly in a caring capacity.

Find out more about the entry requirements, skills and interests required to enter a career in vascular science [4].

CPD, ASP and registration

Continuing professional development

You'll 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 [5]

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 [6].

Registration

To practice as a clinical scientist, you'll need to be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council [7]. You'll also 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 [8]

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/not-studying-health-related-degree/nhs-scientist-training-programme [2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Respiratory
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