

NHS apprenticeships

Earn, learn and make a difference with an NHS apprenticeship. Our apprenticeships offer routes into many of the more than 350 NHS careers through a mix of on-the-job training and classroom learning.

"I have grown in confidence, learned a lot of new skills and feel really happy in my role."

Emily is a business admin apprentice. Read Emily's story ^[1]

What you need to know about NHS apprenticeships

- if you are aged 16 to 18 or 19+ and in your first year of an apprenticeship, the minimum you should receive is £4.30 an hour (the National Minimum Wage for apprentices)
- many NHS employers will pay you more than the minimum wage
- they take between one and five years to complete
- anyone over the age of 16 can do one
- you're likely to spend four days on work placement and one day or at a training centre or college
- you'll develop your skills, including English and maths
- you'll gain a competence qualification (based on what you can do in the workplace) and a knowledge qualification, or a qualification combining both

Meet our apprentices

Read some stories from NHS apprentices ^[2] in different roles. Could an apprenticeship in the NHS be the right choice for you?

NHS apprenticeships

NHS apprenticeships are available at four levels:



- Intermediate apprenticeships - equivalent to GCSEs or other level 2 qualifications
- Advanced apprenticeship - equivalent to A-levels or other level 3 qualifications
- Higher apprenticeships - equivalent to a foundation degree and above
- Degree apprenticeships - equivalent to a full bachelor's or Master's degree

Entry requirements

Entry requirements will depend on the employer and the type and level of apprenticeship.

For example, you may need four or five GCSEs at grades 9-4/A-C or equivalent to do an Advanced Level Apprenticeship. To start a higher apprenticeship you're likely to need A-levels, equivalent level 3 qualifications or relevant and sufficient experience.

Types of apprenticeships

With more than 350 different NHS careers, there are hundreds of different jobs which can be done through an apprenticeship. Here are just a few:

- Allied Health Profession Support (Advanced Level)
- Apprentice ambulance practitioner (level 4)
- Care, Leadership and Management (level 5 Higher Apprenticeship)
- Dental Nursing (Advanced Level)
- Informatics (Intermediate and Advanced Level)
- Health and Social Care (Intermediate and Advanced Level)
- Healthcare science assistant (Intermediate - level 2)
- Maternity and Paediatric Support (Advanced Level)
- Nursing degree apprenticeships
- Operating department practice degree apprenticeship
- Pharmacy services assistant (level 2)
- Podiatry degree apprenticeship

See our handy PDF ^[3] for examples of the types of available apprenticeships in health. And look out for the 'A' icon when exploring the various roles ^[4] on this website to see which ones can be entered through an apprenticeship.

After completing an apprenticeship, you may be offered a permanent job.

"As an apprentice and a student paramedic, no two days are the same. Every day is varied and poses different challenges."

Katie is a student paramedic at North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust. Read her story. ^[5]

Applying for an NHS apprenticeship

There has never been a better time to start an NHS apprenticeship but often there's a lot of competition for a place. This means your application and interview are crucial. Some things to think about:

- show that you are committed
- make sure you are aware of your responsibilities
- demonstrate that you are able to cope with work and study
- take a look at the range of healthcare apprenticeship career routes on the Skills for Health website ^[6]

You can find NHS apprenticeship vacancies on the NHS Jobs website ^[7]. A taste of some of the current vacancies below.

So what happens after finishing an apprenticeship?

- you may be offered a permanent job. Most successful apprentices stay in employment, often with the same employer. It's always a good idea to check whether you'll be offered a job at the end of your programme
- you could continue your studies through an apprenticeship at higher level or you may have the qualifications you need to go to university.

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You can find just some of the current apprenticeship opportunities from NHS Jobs below.

- View Vacancy ^[8]

Apprentice HR Administrator

Birmingham, B20 2DT

- **Salary:**
£4.30 an hour
- **Type:**
Fixed term
- **Employer:**
Central Advertising - Other
- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [9]

Nursing Apprentice

Preston, PR2 9HT

- **Salary:**
£4.30 an hour
- **Type:**
Fixed term
- **Employer:**
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [10]

Apprentice Administrator

London, SE11 4HJ

-

■ **Salary:**

£4.30 an hour £4.30 for under 19 and £4.30 in the first year for over 19

■

Type:

Fixed term

■

Employer:

Central Advertising - General Practitioners

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) ^[11]

Apprentice Administrator

London, SE11 4HJ

■

Salary:

£8944.00 a year If over 19 salary is increases in the second year

■

Type:

Apprenticeship

■

Employer:

Central Advertising - General Practitioners

■ [View Vacancy](#)

○ [View Vacancy](#) ^[12]

Apprentice Administrator

Luton, LU2 8BG

■

Salary:

£12792.00 to £12792.00 a year

■

Type:

Permanent



Employer:

Virgin Care



Finance Apprentice

DURHAM, DH1 3YG



Salary:

£15,243.90 - £21,777



Type:

Fixed term



Employer:

North of England Commissioning Support



Traineeships

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Traineeships help unlock your great potential. They give you training to prepare you for the world of work, maths and English skills and the work experience needed to get an apprenticeship or other job.

What are they?



- experience
- traineeships aim to give you the skills and experience to help you find an apprenticeship or job
- they are tailored to meet your needs
- there are three core elements: a work placement, training in how to prepare for work, and support with your English and maths if you need it
- traineeships can last from six weeks to six months

Are you suitable?

You may be able to take a traineeship if you are:

- unemployed (or work less than 16 hours a week)
- have little work experience
- are aged 16-18 and don't have a level-3 qualification, or if you are aged 19-23 and don't have a level-2 qualification

Further information

Traineeship opportunities are advertised regularly on the Gov.uk website ^[14].

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Cadet schemes

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Cadet schemes are a great way to learn and gain experience at the same time.

In a few areas of the country, cadet schemes provide an entry route into careers in health. Programmes and entry requirements vary widely but cadet schemes are usually offered in partnership with a local further education college.

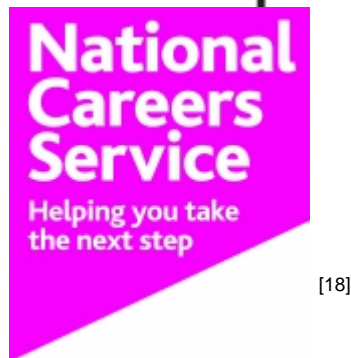
Where available, cadet schemes involve supervised experience in a variety of settings and lead to level-2 or -3 qualifications.

Cadet schemes can help you decide on a career route to follow and can lead to work in a number of different areas, including nursing or support-level roles with or without patient contact.

It is important to note that most cadet schemes have been replaced by apprenticeship schemes, but contact the organisations providing NHS healthcare in your area ^[15] to see if they offer cadet schemes.

Read how Luke Watson is getting on in his cadet scheme here [16].

Partner logos



Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/apprenticeships/nhs-apprenticeships>

Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-cadet-schemes/real-life-story-emily-gold>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/apprenticeship-real-life-stories/apprenticeship-real-life-stories>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/resources/apprenticeships-health>
- [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles>
- [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-cadet-schemes/real-life-story-katie-smith>
- [6] <https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/pathways/>
- [7] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>
- [8] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916731656>
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- [10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916720784>
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- [12] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916711497>
- [13] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916730467>
- [14] <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>
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- [16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/clinical-support-staff/healthcare-assistant/real-life-story-luke-watson>
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