NHS Higher Specialist Scientist Training

If you are a registered and experienced clinical scientist, you may be interested in training to become a consultant healthcare scientist.

Consultant healthcare scientists improve patient care by applying their specialist scientific skills.

What does the training scheme involve?

- a five-year programme at a similar standard to medical specialty training
- work-based training and study at doctorate level
- possibly gaining Medical Royal College qualifications (eg fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists).

What opportunities are there?

It can be possible to find posts in:

- clinical bioinformatics
- life sciences
- physical sciences and biomedical engineering
- physiological sciences

Click on the boxes below to find out more about each area and find out more about the different healthcare science roles [1].

How do I get a place?

There are two ways to get on to an [HSSS] programme:

- direct entry - apply for a newly advertised post in an accredited training department
- in-service training - be nominated by your employer to move into an existing post

How do I apply?

The application window usually opens in late winter/early spring, for entry later the same year.

For the very latest information about important dates, please check the National School of Healthcare Science website
Clinical bioinformatics

Depending on workforce needs for any given intake, it is possible to find posts in:

- clinical bioinformatics (genomics) [4]
- clinical bioinformatics (health informatics) [5]
- clinical bioinformatics (physical sciences) [6]

Life sciences

Depending on workforce needs for any given intake, it is possible to find posts in:

- analytic toxicology [7]
- clinical biochemistry [8]
- clinical immunology [9]
- clinical and laboratory transfusion [10]
- haematology [12]
- histocompatibility and immunogenetics [13]
- microbiology [14]
- molecular pathology of acquired disease
- molecular pathology of infection
- reproductive science [15]
- virology [16]

Physical sciences/biomedical engineering

Depending on workforce needs for any given intake, it is possible to find posts in:

- clinical biomedical engineering [17]
- medical physics (imaging physics and radiotherapy physics) [18]
- reconstructive science [19]

Physiological
Depending on workforce needs for any given intake, it is possible to find posts in:

- audiological science [20]
- cardiac science [21]
- gastrointestinal physiology [22]
- neurophysiological science [23]
- ophthalmic and vision science [24]
- respiratory and sleep science [25]
- urodynamic science [26]
- vascular science [27]

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