

# 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 HSST [2] 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 [3]

- **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]
- genomics [11]
- 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  
sciences**

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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**Source URL:**<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/developing-your-health-career/nhs-higher-specialist-scientist-training>

## Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles> [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#HSST>  
 [3] <http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/join-the-programme/nhs-higher-specialist-scientific-training>  
 [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/clinical-bioinformatics/clinical-bioinformatics-genomics> [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/clinical-bioinformatics/clinical-bioinformatics-health-informatics> [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/clinical-bioinformatics/clinical-bioinformatics-physical-sciences>  
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 [13] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/histocompatibility-and-immunogenetics> [14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/microbiology>  
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 [19] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/reconstructive-science> [20] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/physiological-sciences/audiology> [21] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/cardiac-sciences>  
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 [24] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/ophthalmic-and-vision-science> [25] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/respiratory-physiology-and-sleep-sciences> [26] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/urodynamic-science>  
 [27] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/vascular-science>