

# 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](#) <sup>[1]</sup>.

## How do I get a place?

There are two ways to get on to an [HSST](#) <sup>[2]</sup> 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 <sup>[3]</sup>

## • **Clinical bioinformatics**

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

- clinical bioinformatics (genomics) <sup>[4]</sup>
- clinical bioinformatics (health informatics) <sup>[5]</sup>
- clinical bioinformatics (physical sciences) <sup>[6]</sup>

## • **Life sciences**

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

- analytic toxicology <sup>[7]</sup>
- clinical biochemistry <sup>[8]</sup>
- clinical immunology <sup>[9]</sup>
- clinical and laboratory transfusion <sup>[10]</sup>
- genomics <sup>[11]</sup>
- haematology <sup>[12]</sup>
- histocompatibility and immunogenetics <sup>[13]</sup>
- microbiology <sup>[14]</sup>
- molecular pathology of acquired disease
- molecular pathology of infection
- reproductive science <sup>[15]</sup>
- virology <sup>[16]</sup>

## • **Physical sciences/biomedical engineering**

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

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

## • **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]

---

**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> [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/analytical-toxicology> [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/clinical-biochemistry> [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/clinical-immunology> [10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/blood-sciences> [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/genomics> [12] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/haematology-healthcare-scientist> [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> [15] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/reproductive-science-and-andrology> [16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/virology-healthcare-scientist> [17] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering> [18] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/clinical-measurement> [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> [22] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/gastrointestinal-physiology> [23] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/neurophysiology> [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>