NHS Scientist Training Programme

The NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP[1]) may be for you if you are a science or engineering graduate.

You can train to work in a senior healthcare science role in one of the following areas:

- **clinical bioinformatics** [2] (including **genomics** [3], **physical sciences** [4] and **health informatics** [5])
- **life sciences** [6] (including **andrology** [7], **cancer genomics** [8], **clinical biochemistry** [9], **clinical immunology** [10], **genomics** [11], **genomic counselling** [12], **haematology/transfusion science** [13], **histocompatibility and immunogenetics** [14], **histopathology** [15], **microbiology** [16] and **reproductive science** [17])
- **physical sciences and biomedical engineering** [18] (including **clinical engineering** [19] (eg **rehabilitation engineering** [20]), **clinical pharmaceutical science** [21], **medical physics** (eg **nuclear medicine** [22], **radiotherapy physics** [23], **radiation safety** [24], **imaging (ionising)** [25], **imaging (non-ionising)** [26], **MRI** [27] and **ultrasound** [28]) and **reconstructive science** [29])
- **physiological sciences** [30] (including **audiology** [31], **cardiac science** [32], **critical care science** [33], **gastrointestinal physiology** [34], **neurophysiology** [35], **ophthalmic and vision science** [36], **respiratory and sleep science** [37], **urodynamic science** [38] and **vascular science** [39])

Not all specialisms are available every year through the STP[1], so it's essential to check during the STP[1] recruitment window (see below for details of the latest recruitment round).
The programme

You'll be employed on a fixed-term contract and paid a salary during your training.

The STP [1] lasts for three years and involves:

- approved and accredited workplace-based training (you'll usually spend the first year in a range of settings and then specialise in the last two years)
- gaining a master's degree in your chosen area of work

Once you have completed the STP [1], you will be eligible to apply for suitable healthcare science posts as a clinical scientist.

Find out more about the various healthcare science roles in clinical bioinformatics [2], life sciences [6], physical sciences and biomechanical engineering [18] and physiological sciences [30]

Entry requirements

Applicants must have a 1st or 2.1 either in an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated
master’s degree in a pure or applied science subject relevant to the specialism for which they are applying.

Applicants with a 2.2 honours degree or better in any subject will also be considered if they have a higher degree* that is relevant to the specialism for which they are applying.

For all candidates evidence of research experience, e.g. in the form of a higher degree or equivalent evidence of scientific and academic capability, is considered desirable.

(*Higher degree as defined on page 17 of The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies [40]. Please note this does not include postgraduate diplomas or postgraduate certificates.)

**Recruitment for 2019 entry**

Applications to the NHS Scientist Training Programme for entry in 2019 opened on 7 January 2019.

The recruitment process for the NHS Scientist Training Programme is administered by the National School for Healthcare Science. For the latest details about the STP [1] and 2019 entry, visit the National School's website [41] where you can find:

- details of the programme
- information about which specialisms are available
- the application process
- the interview process
- details of open days
- case studies
- FAQs
- important documents

Visit the National School of Healthcare Science website for the very latest information about recruitment and to apply to the STP for 2019 entry [41]

You can also follow the National School @NSHCS and Health Careers @HealthCareersUK on Twitter [42]

**Source URL:** https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/graduate-training-opportunities/nhs-scientist-training-programme

**Links**
[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#STP