

Entry requirements (environmental health professional)

Find out more about entry requirements for EHPs and the differences between England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

There are different entry requirements for environmental health roles depending on the nature and level of seniority of the role.



If you have GCSEs and considerable experience of working in environmental health activity, you may be able to secure an entry-level role.

If you have GCSEs and considerable experience of working in environmental health activity, you may be able to secure an entry-level role (eg enforcement officer) in a local authority. More senior roles, are likely to require some form of training or further qualification.

Anyone wishing to work as an environmental health practitioner in England, Wales or Northern Ireland must first obtain a degree or higher degree level qualification that is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health ^[1] ([CIEH](#) ^[2]). All accredited courses in environmental health are currently listed on the course finder ^[3] on our website.

A BSc Environmental Health Practitioner degree apprenticeship has been approved for delivery. To get onto a degree apprenticeship, you will need to apply for an apprentice position with an employer. You can search for vacancies on the Local Government Jobs website ^[4] and Find an Apprenticeship website ^[5].

In Scotland, the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland ^[6] (REHIS) is the awarding body for a number of qualifications in environmental health.

Find out more about different entry requirements for environmental health roles in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland below.

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**England, Wales,
and Northern
Ireland**

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The following list offers some example roles and the types of entry requirements they may have:

Environmental health technicians: food premises inspection

The Higher Certificate in Food Premises Inspection (HCFPI) provides a way for someone who has not qualified as an environmental health practitioner to inspect food premises for a Food Enforcement Authority. You need to successfully complete an HCFPI course accredited by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) [7]. The course covers food microbiology, food science and technology, food law and criminal law, building construction and building services in relation to food businesses, and risk assessments. It requires a minimum of six months of practical training, the completion of a logbook, and a professional interview. When you have successfully completed all elements of the course you will be awarded the HCFPI by the Environmental Health Registration Board and your name will appear in the HCFPI register.

Environmental health technicians: food control

The Higher Certificate in Food Control (HCFC) provides a way for someone who has not qualified as an environmental health practitioner to inspect, seize and detain food, and also to inspect food premises for a Food Enforcement Authority. You will first need to obtain the Higher Certificate for Food Premises Inspection [7], then complete accredited modules for Food Standards and Food Premises Inspection. When you have successfully completed all elements of the course, you will be awarded the HCFC by the Environmental Health Registration Board and your name will appear in the HCFC register.

Environmental health practitioners

Anyone wishing to work as an environmental health practitioner must first obtain a degree or higher degree level qualification that is accredited by the CIEH [1]. A BSc Environmental Health Practitioner degree apprenticeship has been approved for delivery. To get onto a degree apprenticeship, you will need to apply for an apprentice position with an employer. You can search for vacancies on the Local Government Jobs website [4] and Find an Apprenticeship website [5].

Accredited BSc and MSc degrees in Environmental Health can be studied either full-time or part-time at a growing number of universities. Study is combined with work-based learning, from which you will build up a portfolio. You can also find these courses listed on the course finder [3] on our website.

Graduation is followed by professional assessments, to obtain a Certificate of Registration from the Environmental Health Registration Board, at which point you will become a fully qualified 'Environmental Health Practitioner' (more information can be found on the CIEH [1] website). In Scotland, on passing the professional exams, you will be awarded the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland's (REHIS) Diploma in Environmental Health, the qualification required to become an 'Environmental Health Officer'.

Your training will provide you with a broad knowledge-base in all aspects of environmental health practice (food safety; health and safety at work; environmental protection; housing; and public health), which means you can provide first-level support in most areas of environmental health.

Once you have qualified as an environmental health practitioner or environmental health officer, you can choose to remain a generalist or specialise in a particular area.

Generalist environmental health practitioners cover all aspects of environmental health and can work in a variety of environments from day to day. Some environmental health practitioners choose to extend their knowledge and skills in a certain area. They go on to obtain further qualifications, eg a diploma in Acoustics or Health and Safety, or a master's degree in Public Health.

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Environmental health technicians

In Scotland, the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland ^[6] (REHIS) is the awarding body for a number of qualifications in Food Safety, Food and Health, Control of Infection and Occupational Health and Safety. Courses leading to REHIS qualifications are available at over 500 REHIS-approved Training Centres throughout Scotland.

Environmental health officers

Anyone wishing to work as an Environmental health officer must first get a degree or higher degree that is accredited by the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS). Otherwise the training is similar to that for Environmental Health Practitioners in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

Partner logos

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health/roles-public-health/environmental-health-professional/entry-requirements-environmental-health-professional>

Links

[1] <http://www.cieh.org/>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#CIEH>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/looking-course>

[4] <http://www.lgjobs.com/>

[5] <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

[6] <http://www.rehis.com/>

[7]

<http://www.cieh.org/profdev/default.aspx?id=48640&LangType=2057&terms=hcfpi%20courses>

[8] <http://www.local.gov.uk/>

[9] <https://www.rsph.org.uk/>