

## Myths about healthcare science

The healthcare science team don't work with patients. **True or false?**

**False:** *Many healthcare science staff work directly with patients. This could be anything from monitoring breathing or heart rates to treating patients with hearing difficulties.*

Healthcare science staff don't just work in labs. **True or false?**

**True:** *Some healthcare science teams in areas such as genetics work in labs but many do not, especially in areas where they need to interact with patients. This could mean working on wards or in the community visiting people's homes.*

Doctors couldn't do their job without the support of healthcare science staff.

**True or false?**

**True:** *Healthcare science staff are critical to the delivery of patient care. In fact, the healthcare science team are involved in 80% of all clinical decisions in the NHS and develop some of the most amazing clinical technologies.*

There is no career progression in healthcare science. **True or false?**

**False:** *There is a clear career pathway for staff working in healthcare science. With hard work and a commitment to continuous learning, you could reach the level of consultant healthcare scientist.*

## Next steps

There's lots of information available to help you decide if a healthcare science career is right for you.



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Or contact us:



[advice@healthcareers.nhs.uk](mailto:advice@healthcareers.nhs.uk)



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People think scientists are locked up in laboratories but I attend ward rounds and spend a lot of time helping doctors and patients understand their test results which I really enjoy.

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## Scientists in health: making a difference to patients' lives





## Much more than just labs and test tubes

All sorts of people work in healthcare science, doing all sorts of things to make a difference to patients' lives every day.

Just imagine. If you were working in healthcare science, you could be:

- analysing blood or tissue to find out the cause of an illness
- working directly with a patient to measure and monitor their breathing and help them overcome problems with sleeping
- designing equipment like new hearing aids to make patients' lives better
- ensuring that equipment used in radiotherapy is delivering the correct dosage to patients
- carrying out scans on patients with potential brain function or nerve disorders
- making sure incubators for newborn babies work properly.

There's no end to how you could use your interest in science to help people.

## Getting in

If you decide a healthcare science career is for you, think carefully about the training route you want to take and the area you would like to work in. Some work experience or volunteering may help you decide.

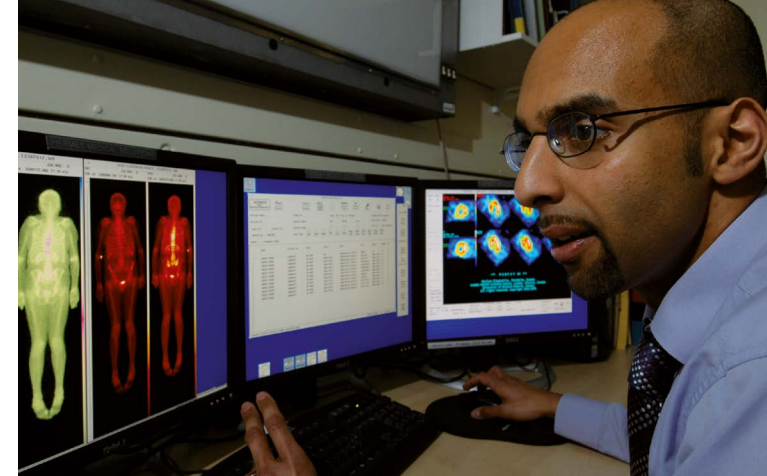
You could join the team as an apprentice, study for a healthcare science degree or apply for the NHS Scientist Training Programme after you graduate with an appropriate BSc (Hons) science degree.

### Apprenticeships

Healthcare science apprenticeships are already up and running in some parts of the country and are a fantastic route to becoming a healthcare science assistant. Pay for healthcare science assistants starts at £14k a year but there is the opportunity to earn more.

Find out more at

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/hcsassistants](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/hcsassistants)



### Undergraduate degrees

Degrees in healthcare science are available at some of the top universities in the country. You'll spend 50 weeks of your degree gaining work-based training in the NHS. Once you've completed your degree, you'll be eligible to apply for healthcare science practitioner roles. Your job prospects will be excellent and vacancies with a starting salary of at least £21k will be waiting for you across the country.

Find out more at

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/ptp](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/ptp)

### Postgraduate study

If you decide to do a more traditional science or engineering degree at university, you can still join the healthcare science team after you graduate. The NHS Scientist Training Programme offers post-graduate study towards a masters degree while earning a salary in excess of £25k a year while you study.

Find out more at

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/stp](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/stp)