

# NHS

## Careers

With the NHS being in the news headlines more than ever over the past year, we are reminded of the vital roles played by our frontline nursing staff and medical research teams. Moreover, there has been an increase in people interested in careers in these fields which is great; however, let's not forget that there are over 350 job roles in the NHS, and without all of them working together, our NHS would look very different. Each person is as valuable as the next.

In this section of the website, you can investigate some of the more obvious vocations, such as nursing, but also discover the careers that are vital to the success of the NHS but may not require scrubs, a stethoscope or a lab coat! You can see for yourself the benefits of working for a national service provider and the pathways and progression available to its staff.

There is a job for almost every interest, let's start here by looking at what career you are considering or what you are interested in...

[Nursing](#)

[Doctor/ GP](#)

[Surgery](#)

[Paramedics](#)

[Medical Research/ Life Sciences](#)

[Child care](#)

[Adult care](#)

[Midwifery](#)

[Dentistry](#)

[Ophthalmology \(eyes\)](#)

[Audiology \(ears\)](#)

[Physiotherapy](#)

[Nutritionist](#)

[Psychological](#)

[Counselling](#)

[Therapy](#)

[Social Work/ Case Work](#)

[Mental health](#)

[Rehabilitation](#)

[Radiology](#)

[IT/ Technology](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Trades/ Grounds Maintenance](#)

[Driver](#)

[Security](#)

[Property Management/ Surveyor](#)

[Public Health](#)

[Business/ Management](#)

[Accounts/ Finance](#)

[Analytics](#)

[Law](#)

[Human Resource/ Employment](#)

[Health & Safety](#)

[Marketing/ PR](#)

[Receptionist/ Customer focused](#)

[Back Office Support/ Administration/ Clerical](#)

[Chaplaincy](#)

[Food/ Hospitality](#)

[Housekeeping/ Porter](#)

## Nursing...

There are a diverse range of options in nursing but all require the same level of dedication, commitment, care and integrity.

Below are some details for the main nursing roles in our NHS. Click on the links to see more.



### [Adult Nurse](#)

Specialising in the care of people over the age of 18 with one or multiple health conditions. Working with a wide range of specialists to deliver the best outcome



### [Children's Nurse](#)

You will aim to minimise the effects of illness on children, working closely with parents or guardians and other healthcare specialists



### [Learning Disabilities Nurse](#)

Working with adults and children to improve or maintain their health, encourage independent living and help them lead a fulfilling life



### [Mental Health Nurse](#)

Supporting people with a range of mental health conditions with both long and short-term needs. You'll be helping them take more control over their condition



# Doctor...

There are a number of specialist Doctors in the NHS. All require a Degree in Medicine before completing a two-year foundation programme. At this point you will have two to three years of core training before you can specialise. After successfully completing year one of foundation training you become eligible for registration as a doctor with the General Medical Council (GMC). [Foundation training](#) includes undertaking rotations in a range of specialties including surgery.

Click on any of the following to learn more about the areas of specialism in our NHS...

## [Anaesthesia](#)

Facilitate pain free child-birth, resuscitate acutely unwell patients, run chronic pain services and lead intensive care units

## [Clinical Oncology](#)

You'll use a range of other treatments to treat cancers, without using surgery

## [Clinical Radiology](#)

You'll use images to diagnose, treat and manage medical conditions and diseases

## [Community Sexual and Reproductive Health](#)

You will specialise in caring for people's sexual health needs

## [Emergency Medicine](#)

You'll carry out immediate assessment and treatment of patients with serious and life-threatening illnesses and injuries

## [General Practice \(GP\)](#)

You'll treat all common medical conditions and refer patients to hospitals and other medical services

## [Intensive Care Medicine](#)

You'll manage critically ill patients with, at the risk of or recovering from potentially life-threatening failure of the body's organs

## [Medicine](#)

You'll specialise within one of the 29 different pathways within medicine

## [Obstetrics and Gynaecology](#)

You'll care for pregnant women, the unborn child and the management of diseases specific to women

## [Occupational Medicine](#)

You'll diagnose, manage and prevent disease that has been caused or exacerbated by workplace factors

## [Ophthalmology](#)

You'll care for those patients with eye conditions

## [Paediatrics](#)

You'll care for infants, children and young people with a range of medical conditions

## [Pathology](#)

You'll combine clinical and laboratory work with excellent opportunities for research

## [Psychiatry](#)

You are part of the team who manage and treat mental health problems

## [Public Health \(Doctor\)](#)

You'll find ways of making communities and environments healthier

## [Surgery](#)

You'll use a wide range of knowledge and skills to perform surgery

## Paramedic...

As a paramedic, you'll often be one of the first to arrive when a patient needs help. It's a fast-paced and vital role where you'll need to quickly take charge of the situation to save lives.



### Working life

You'll be trained to resuscitate and stabilise patients using sophisticated techniques, equipment and drugs. In an emergency, you may use high-tech equipment such as defibrillators, spinal and traction splints, as well as administering oxygen and drugs.

You'll often work alongside the police and fire and rescue services. Along with your patients, you'll also support their relatives, friends and members of the public, some of whom might be highly agitated.

As a paramedic, you'll be the senior member of a two-person team, with an emergency care assistant or technician to support you. You may also work on your own using a motorbike or bicycle, or provide advice over the telephone from a control room or clinical hub.

Based primarily at a local ambulance station, you'll work shifts, including evenings and weekends and will work in all types of weather.



[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT  
HOW TO BECOME  
A PARAMEDIC](#)



# Healthcare science and Medical research...

If you're passionate about technology or science, and helping others, a career in [healthcare science](#) offers a range of opportunities.

## Clinical bioinformatics

You'll be responsible for developing and improving methods for acquiring, storing, and analysing biological data

## Physical sciences and biomedical engineering

You'll measure what is happening in the body, devise new ways of diagnosing and treating disease and ensure that equipment is functioning safely

## Life sciences

You'll work mainly in laboratories on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease

## Physiological sciences

You'll assess different parts of the body to diagnose any abnormalities and sometimes provide treatment and care

Discover the opportunities working in medical research, the skills you will need and how to maximise your chances of getting in.

## **What opportunities are there?**

Medical researchers plan and conduct experiments and analyse results, with the aim of increasing scientific knowledge on topics related to medicine. They may also use this knowledge to develop new drugs or medical products.

## [Click here to find out more](#)

It can be difficult to get permanent academic positions and many researchers in postdoctoral positions are on short-term contracts.

## **They can be employed in:**

- ◆ Industry
- ◆ Higher education institutions
- ◆ Research institutes
- ◆ Medical research charities
- ◆ Hospital laboratories



## Child care...

There are two main options within child care in the NHS; Nursery Nurse and Nursery Assistant.

As a nursery nurse or a nursery assistant, you'll work with young patients and their families, primarily on children's wards. Some will also work in hospital nurseries looking after children of NHS staff.

If you're a nursery assistant, you'll work under the supervision of a qualified nursery nurse.



[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES  
IN CHILD CARE IN THE NHS](#)

### The work of nursery nurses *and* nursery assistant includes:

- ◆ making sure that children are safe, happy and stimulated
- ◆ communicating information to children using play
- ◆ supporting children during clinical procedures
- ◆ encouraging children's development
- ◆ using play to maintain a child's level of development during illness
- ◆ creating a child friendly environment
- ◆ maintaining toys and play equipment
- ◆ finding ways to stimulate children particularly those with special and sensory needs
- ◆ supporting carers in the parenting of their children

### In addition, qualified nursery nurses may:

- ◆ supervise staff
- ◆ coordinate a programme of activities for children
- ◆ set up a daily routine for the nursery
- ◆ attend meetings
- ◆ work with other professionals within and outside the NHS
- ◆ support children who have been abused
- ◆ promote public health and parenting

Consider the role of [Health Play Worker](#)—You'll use play as a therapeutic tool to help children understand their illness and treatment. You'll lead play activities with children and young people who are in hospital or attending a hospital or clinic



# Adult care...

There are a vast array of entry levels and areas of specialism looking after and caring for adults in our NHS. See here a list of some of the careers that may interest you.

Whether you are looking to join as a carer for elderly in the community, an adult mental health specialist, adult social care professional or adult nurse on the varying wards, you will find a pathway suitable to your level of qualification and academic ability here.

Click on any of the following to learn more about the areas of adult care in our NHS...

**Adult Nurse** (A degree is required for this job)

Adult nursing is a rewarding career where you have a real chance to make a difference to people's lives. As part of your training, you can expect to learn new skills and procedures that help patients.

**District Nurse** (You will require a degree in a nursing to work in this sector)

District nurses make a difference everyday to the lives of the people they visit at home and in residential care homes. They provide increasingly complex care for patients and support for family members.

Your patients could be any age, but they'll often be elderly, while others may have been recently discharged from hospital, be terminally ill or have physical disabilities.

**Allied Healthcare Professions** (The majority of these roles require a degree)

Allied health professionals make up the third largest clinical workforce in the NHS. There are 15 different roles working across a range of sectors from emergency response and diagnosis to mental and physical rehabilitation.

Their work focuses on improving the health and wellbeing of their patients so that they can live full and active lives within their family circles, social networks and workplace. Whether you want to be hospital-based, work within the community or from patients' homes, there's bound to be a role that suits you.

**Healthcare Support Worker** (No specific academic requirements for many roles)

Healthcare support workers work across a variety of settings, from mental health to children's services. The choice is yours. As a healthcare support worker, you'll work under the supervision of a healthcare professional, supporting them and helping patients on their journey back to full health.

The opportunities to specialise and work towards a qualification are available here.

**Occupation Health Nurse** (As a registered nurse you will hold a degree in nursing)

Occupational health nurses are leaders of public health and care in the workplace. They specialise in the care and well-being of people at work.

**Social Care**

This arena opens a whole plethora of doors to adult care. Some require a degree but there are a high percentage of jobs available to those with GCSE, vocational or foundation based qualifications too. There are also a increasing number of apprenticeships and training programmes available within the social care sector.

**[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE...](#)**

## Social care...

There are lots of different job roles in social care; it just depends what you're interested in, who you want to work with and where.

On this page are list of all 18 jobs available and a brief description. To find out more click [here](#) or on a specific job title.



**Direct Care Roles** — working directly with people who need care and support

### Activities Worker

You'll organise social activities for people who need care and support, including trips out, entertainment and supporting people to take part

### Care Worker

You'll support people with all aspects of their day to day living, including social and physical activities, personal care, mobility and meal times

### Personal Assistant

You'll support an individual to live as independently as possible, usually in their own home or community

### Rehabilitation Worker

You'll support people to live independently, often following an illness or accident, and help them access support with housing, finance, social activities and life skills

### Shared Lives Carer

You'll open up your home and family life to include someone who needs care and support. They might come and live with you all the time or be a daytime visitor for a few hours a week.

### Advocacy Worker

You'll support vulnerable people to have their voice heard and ensure their best interests are taken into consideration when decisions are being made about their lives

**Regulated Professional Roles** — These roles mean you have to be registered with a regulated body to practice. They require relevant qualifications which might include an undergraduate degree or diploma

### Social Worker

You'll offer counselling and advocacy to individuals and families, and intervene where vulnerable people need safeguarding

### Occupational Therapist

You'll work with people with physical, mental or social disabilities to help do everyday activities such as with physical rehabilitation or equipment for daily living

### Nurse (including Nursing Associate)

You'll perform clinical tasks to people in a nursing home or in the community

### Complementary Therapist

You'll provide complementary therapies such as reflexology, massage and aromatherapy to people who may be experiencing emotional distress, pain or psychological issues

### Counsellor

You'll provide emotional support to help people overcome challenges for example bereavement, living with a long term condition or drug or alcohol addiction

**Management Roles** — These roles involve managerial responsibility where you could be responsible for managing a small team, or be the CEO of an organisation

**Other Social Care Support Roles**

### Housing Support Officer

You'll provide housing related support and advice to ensure people keep their tenancy and live independently

### Volunteer Coordinator

You'll be responsible for finding, managing and coordinating volunteers across an organisation or location

### Social Care Prescriber

You'll connect people with non-medical support in the community to improve their wellbeing and tackle social isolation

### Welfare Rights Officer

You'll advise people around matters relating to legislation such as housing benefits, disability living allowances, employment benefits and rent support

### Employment Advisor

You'll support people who need care and support to find and maintain employment

### Administration Roles including Finance, HR and Marketing

You'll carry out administration tasks to support the organisation in finance, HR and marketing

### Trainer or Assessor

You'll design and deliver learning and development sessions to improve the knowledge and skills of staff

## Midwifery...

Midwives are one of the roles who prepare women for the delivery of new life and during all stages of pregnancy, labour and the early postnatal period. However, there are other jobs within midwifery. *The role of a support worker does not require specific qualifications.*



### Neonatal Nurse

Neonatal nurses care for newborn babies who are born premature or sick. A newborn baby can suffer from a range of conditions requiring treatment.



### Newborn Hearing Screener

Newborn hearing screeners help and support families with vital information about their babies' hearing.



### Health Visitor

Health visitors are nurses or midwives who promote healthy lifestyles and prevent illness. They work with families to give pre-school-age children the best possible start in life.



### Maternity Support Worker

Maternity support workers are the frontline of a family's journey through pregnancy, childbirth and the first few days of birth.



### Midwife

You'll provide care and support to women and their families while pregnant, throughout labour and during the period after a baby's birth.

# Dental Team...

In what ever job you pursue, as part of the [dental team](#) you are contributing to the nation's mouths and to the wider care of patients. Take a look at the range of roles and opportunities below. *Not all positions require a degree to start your career.*



## Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists are an important part of the dental team, preventing dental problems in adults and children.

## Dental Nurse

A dental nurse supports the dentist in all aspects of patients' dental care.



## Dental Therapist

You will handle much of the routine dental work such as scaling and polishing

## Dental Technicians

Dental technicians (or dental technologists as they are often referred to) make the dentures, crowns, bridges and dental braces that improve patients' appearance, speech and ability to chew.



## Dentist

Dentists are the frontline of good oral health. They work with communities to prevent and treat dental/oral disease, correct dental irregularities and treat dental/facial injuries.



# Audiology...

[Audiology](#) is about identifying and assessing hearing and balance function and their associated disorders.

You'd work with patients of all ages as part of a team, recommending and providing appropriate therapeutic rehabilitation and management.



## Overview

Audiology is a rapidly developing field, and the need for audiological services is clear. A national study of hearing showed that approximately 16% of the population have a significant hearing loss, indicating that working in this field is an important area of the NHS.

## Working life

In this area of healthcare science, you could work in areas including:

Paediatrics  
Adult assessment and rehabilitation  
Special needs groups  
Research and development  
Teaching

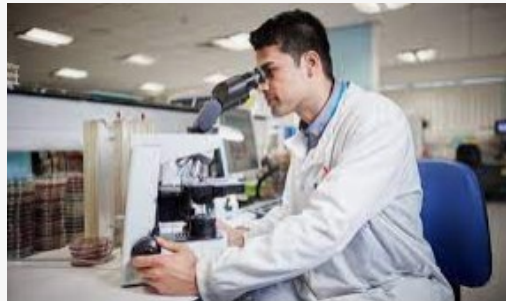
Healthcare science staff in audiology work in a variety of settings, including hospitals and community settings (including the independent sector), where they assess and treat patients. With appropriate further training and development, and depending on their employer, they may reach consultant level. Many operate open referral clinics and may be the only point of contact for the patient.

## Roles in Audiology

There are four main roles, these are:

- [Newborn Hearing Screener](#)
- [Hearing aid Audiologist](#)
- [Healthcare Science Practitioner](#)
- [Clinical Scientist](#)

*Click on the links to find out more*



# Therapists...

Allied health professionals make up the third largest clinical workforce in the NHS. There are 14 different roles working across a range of sectors from emergency response and diagnosis to mental and physical rehabilitation. It is here that the role of varying therapists comes in to play.

## Art Therapist/ Art Psychotherapist

You'll use art to help people deal with complex and confusing emotional issues. There may be things which clients cannot say in words. This could be because the emotions are too distressing or because there is difficulties with communication

## Occupational Therapist

As an occupational therapist, you'll help people who have difficulties carrying out day-to-day activities because of a disability, illness, trauma, ageing, and a range of long-term conditions

## Speech and Language Therapist

Speech and language therapy is an exciting and varied career. It offers you the chance to make a difference, a high degree of flexibility and excellent employment prospects. You'll work with patients every day to help improve their care and their lives

## Dramatherapist

You'll use the healing aspects of drama and theatre to help people explore and reflect on their feelings. You'll offer people the opportunity to change by experimenting with different ways of thinking, feeling and behaving

## Physiotherapist

You'll help people improve their mobility and regain their independence after an injury or operation, or as a result of ageing or a disability

## Therapeutic Radiographer

You'll be a source of hope and care for those diagnosed with cancer. Using radiotherapy, you'll collaborate with other healthcare professionals to create individual treatment plans that blend technical expertise with emotional support for your patients

## Music Therapist

Music therapists use music to help their clients achieve therapeutic goals through development of the musical and therapeutic relationship. The role of the music therapist is not to teach clients how to play an instrument, and there is no pre-requisite to 'be musical' to engage in music therapy

Allied Health Professionals focus on improving the health and wellbeing of their patients so that they can live full and active lives within their family circles, social networks and workplace.

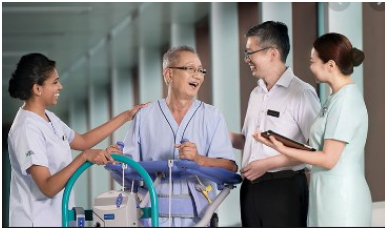
Whether you want to be hospital-based, work within the community or from patients' homes, there's bound to be a role that suits you.

[Have a look here to find out more](#)

## Rehabilitation...

Put simply, rehabilitation is the process of recovery from injury, illness or disease to as normal a condition as possible. This can take many guises and within the NHS there are several dedicated specialist teams and departments to ensure the wellbeing and recovery of its' patients.

Here we investigate some of the possible career paths such as physiotherapy and drug rehabilitation, but also those that are research based in order to be able to continue to improve the services on offer.



### Rehabilitation Medicine (this requires a medical degree)

Specialists in rehabilitation medicine (RM) work closely with many other medical specialties, healthcare professionals and other agencies to assess and provide interventions to individuals with complex disabling conditions. The aim is to optimise recovery after severe injuries in the acute phase, improve function and promote participation in society longer term for all people with conditions which give rise to disability.



### Therapy (various entry levels)

This element of rehabilitation covers both physical and mental aspects including art therapy, drama therapy, physiotherapy and radiotherapy. Each patient will require a different level of support depending on their injury or illness.

The 14 [Allied Health Professions](#) demonstrate these areas.



### Social Worker (degree entry)

As a social worker, you'll work with people to find solutions to their problems. This may be helping to protect vulnerable people from harm or abuse or supporting people to live independently.

It is via this route you can specialise in working with people with alcohol, drug or other substance misuse problems. There is support within the NHS for such patients at varying levels.

Social Workers also cover the mental health and well being safety of those patients with a rehabilitation plan.



### Reablement (various entry levels)

This is a service offered by the NHS and Social Services where a team of people are put in place to assist a patient returning home after being in hospital. It could be made up of a [nurse](#), an [occupational therapist](#), a [physiotherapist](#), a [social worker](#), [doctors](#), [carers](#). All of which require different levels of qualifications.



# Psychological...

With mental health being a much more openly discussed topic, there is a definite increase of interest in careers in psychology, in many arenas. All roles in NHS [psychological professions](#) involve helping people with mental health issues, but differ in the people or types of conditions you may deal with and the amount of training you need.

Click on any of the 13 specialisms below and learn more...

## [Assistant Psychologist](#)

You'll provide clinical support under the direct supervision of a qualified Psychologist

## [Children's Wellbeing Practitioner](#)

You'll provide support such as guided self-help and therapeutic activities for children and young people with anxiety, low mood and behavioural difficulties

## [Clinical Neuropsychologist](#)

You'll help people with brain injury or other neurological disease and how they affect how they think, feel and behave

## [Clinical Psychologist](#)

You'll deal with a wide range of mental and physical health problems including addiction, anxiety, depression, learning difficulties and relationship issues

## [Counselling Psychologist](#)

You'll deal with a wide range of mental health problems that may occur such as depression, in addition to eating disorders, psychosis, personality disorder

## [Counsellor](#)

A counsellor helps people talk about their feelings. This could be because of relationship difficulties, grief or to help them deal with everyday life.

## [Education Mental Health Practitioner](#)

You'll work across education and healthcare to provide mental health support for children and young people in schools and colleges

## [Forensic Psychologist](#)

Forensic psychology applies psychological theory to criminal investigation, understanding psychological problems associated with criminal behaviour, and the treatment of those who have committed offences

## [Health Psychologist](#)

You are specially trained to help people deal with the psychological and emotional aspects of health and illness as well as supporting people who are chronically ill

## [High Intensity Therapist](#)

You'll equip people with the tools and techniques they need to overcome complex problems related to anxiety and depression

## [Peer Support Worker](#)

Peer support workers are people who have lived experience of mental health challenges themselves

## [Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner](#)

You'll be trained to assess and support people with common mental health problems – principally anxiety disorders and depression – in the self-management of their recovery

## [Psychotherapist](#)

You'll help people to overcome stress, emotional and relationship problems or troublesome habits

# Domestic and Trade...

Within the NHS there are vital roles that are not medically connected, other than a general care of duty to patients, staff and visitors. These are careers that are not necessarily the first you would think of, but still offer brilliant opportunity, security and job satisfaction knowing you are contributing to the care of patients.

[Estate Services](#), [Domestic Services](#) and [Support Services](#) open doors to more hands-on, practical jobs. Click on the jobs below to see if there is something that interests you...

[Carpenter/Joiner](#)

[Electrician](#)

[Engineer](#)

[Painter and decorator](#)

[Plumber](#)

[Tiler](#)

[Estates Technician](#)

[Bricklayer](#)

[Window cleaner](#)

[Gardeners and grounds staff](#)

[Caretaker](#)

[Catering Manager](#)

[Chef and Cook](#)

[Domestic Services](#) (keeping everywhere clean)

[Housekeeping](#)

[Linen Services](#)

[Audio Visual Technician](#)—setting up equipment for training events and meetings. They may engineer sound presentation images and lighting

[Driver](#)—making sure that patients, goods and supplies are where they need to be at the right time

[Fire Safety Officer](#)—ensuring patients and staff are as safe as possible from the risk of fire

[Health & Safety Officer](#)—aiming to minimise risks to patients, staff and visitors

[Porter](#)—making sure crucial goods and items are delivered where they are needed most. Ensuring patients are at the right place at the right time to get the treatment they need

[Security Staff](#)—making sure that hospitals and other NHS sites are accessible and safe for patients, visitors and staff. They also protect buildings and valuable equipment

[Store and Distribution Staff](#)— see that a range of essential supplies are delivered to the right wards, clinics and health centres





# Corporate Services...

All corporate services staff are specialists who use their professional skills to provide services are mainly for patients, such as hospital play or health promotion staff; others, such as human resources, support other NHS staff. Some, including surveyors and architects, have a lot of contact with organisations outside the NHS across the NHS.

## Arts Manager/ Co-ordination

You'll engage with a range of art forms including visual art, literature, dance, music, crafts, new media, combined arts, circus and drama. You may also be responsible for cultural projects



## Chaplain

You're usually based in a hospital with an office; you'll have a chapel or multi-faith room which staff, patients and families can visit. However, as a chaplain, you will spend a lot of time in wards and other parts of the hospital visiting people who are too

## Communications/ Public Relations

You'll help NHS organisations engage with patients, their local communities, staff and other interested groups including media



## Finance

Based in office areas of hospitals and health centres or in headquarters buildings. You work closely with others in the wider healthcare team; possibly clinical and non-clinical managers. Most finance staff have little or no contact with patients

## Health Play Staff

You'll use play as a therapeutic tool to help children understand their illness and treatment. You'll lead play activities with children and young people who are in hospital or attending a hospital or clinic



## Human Resources

You'll manage all issues relating to the employment of your NHS colleagues including recruitment and will be an expert in employment law

## Nursery Nurse/ Assistant

As a nursery nurse or assistant, you'll work with our young patients and their families primarily on children's wards. Some will work in hospital nurseries looking after children of NHS staff.



## Surveyor

As an NHS surveyor, you'll be responsible for managing several NHS properties. You may be known as: Asset Manager, Estate Manager or Property Manager