

What would I have liked to have known before I applied for the Scientific Training Programme (STP)?

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Find out what its all about...



www.nshcs.org.uk



www.ahcs.ac.uk



www.nwhcs.nhs.uk



www.mahse.co.uk

The bigger picture...



- The NHS constitution (www.hee.nhs.uk/about-us/our-values)
- Good Scientific Practice (www.ahcs.ac.uk/2012/12/good-scientific-practice/)
- Newspapers/websites (www.theguardian.com/society/nhs)

Is the STP course right for you...?

You need to be able to:

- Work hard
- Show dedication
- Manage your time effectively
- Be adaptable
- Be professional
- Be proactive! → Massive difference between BSc and MSc



Choosing your specialism



- What do you like?
 - What do you dislike?
 - What are your strengths?
 - What are your weaknesses?
-
- Do you work well in a team?
 - How do you cope in emotional or stressful situations?
 - Would you like to be involved with patients face to face?

Themed Healthcare Science Divisions

Life Sciences

- Analytical Toxicology
- Anatomical pathology
- Blood transfusion science/transplantation
- Clinical biochemistry including paediatric metabolic biochemistry
- Clinical genetics/Genetic Science
- Clinical embryology & Reproductive Science
- Clinical immunology
- Cytopathology including cervical cytology
- Electron microscopy
- External quality assurance
- Haematology
- Haemostasis and thrombosis
- Clinical Immunology
- Histocompatibility & immunogenetics
- Histopathology
- Microbiology
- Molecular pathology of acquired disease
- Phlebotomy
- Tissue banking

Physiological Sciences

- Audiology
- Autonomic neurovascular function
- Cardiac physiology
- Clinical perfusion science
- Critical care science
- Gastrointestinal physiology
- Neurophysiology
- Ophthalmic and vision science
- Respiratory physiology
- Urodynamic science
- Vascular science

Bioinformatics including

- Clinical Bioinformatics and Genomics
- Computer science and modelling
- Health Informatics

Physical Sciences and Biomedical Engineering

- Biomechanical engineering
- Clinical measurement & Development
- Clinical Pharmaceutical Science
- Diagnostic radiology & MR physics
- Equipment management & clinical engineering
- Medical electronics & instrumentation
- Medical engineering design
- Clinical photography
- Nuclear medicine
- Radiation protection & monitoring
- Radiotherapy physics
- Reconstructive Science
- Rehabilitation engineering
- Renal dialysis technology
- Ultrasound & non-ionising radiation

Many of these disciplines require small workforce numbers and provide highly specialist services. These specialisms are within the health and social care system in the UK inclusive of the NHS, Public Health England and the NHS Blood & Transplant service and in the private & third sector delivering NHS services for patients

Find out more...



www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/not-studying-health-related-degree/nhs-scientist-training-programme

Choosing your specialism

Investigate well before choosing: -

- Job role:
clinical/laboratory/office based?
- Number of hospitals offering the service in the country?
- Is it a specialism that is well established?



Choosing your specialism



- Visit the department to explore the day to day role
- Show commitment to one specialism during application

Which specialism is for me...

Hands up if...

- ✓ You are interested in human biology
- ✓ You are a good communicator and enjoy talking to people
- ✓ You have an interest in technology and equipment
- ✓ You would like to be involved in patient diagnostics

You should have a look at:

Cardiac Science, Neurophysiology, Respiratory and Sleep Science

Which specialism is for me...

Hands up if...

- ✓ You are interested in physics and engineering
- ✓ You are not too interested about being in contact with patients all the time
- ✓ Your work is methodical and well structured
- ✓ You are interested in improving patient treatment and safety

You should have a look at:

Radiation Physics, Renal Technology, Nuclear Medicine

Which specialism is for me...

Hands up if...

- ✓ You are interested in human biology
- ✓ You are not squeamish!
- ✓ You pay great attention to detail
- ✓ You are able to work in stressful and sometimes distressing situations

You should have a look at:

Critical Care Science, Gastrointestinal Physiology, Vascular Science

Which specialism is for me...

Hands up if...

- ✓ You are interested in working in a laboratory
- ✓ You don't mind not being in direct contact with patients
- ✓ You like performing experiments or analytical tests
- ✓ You are a well organised perfectionist

You should have a look at:

Clinical Biochemistry, Histocompatibility and immunogenetics, microbiology, haematology/transfusion science

Which specialism is for me...

Hands up if...

- ✓ You would like to be involved face to face with patients
- ✓ You are able to deal with people in a sensitive manner
- ✓ You are able to adhere to rules and regulations
- ✓ You can work to strict deadlines

You should have a look at:

Reproductive Science, Radiotherapy Physics, Reconstructive Science

Choosing your location



Are you able to move/relocate? You may not find out you have a position until the last minute!

Training differs depending on the centre: -

- Training style
- Number of trainers available
- Other trainees and healthcare scientists present

Choosing your location



- Visit the department
- Enquire about the location of rotations
- Teaching hospital vs District general
- Any community work?

Recruitment Process



- Annual recruitment (Applications open in January 2016)
- Applications via NWHCS website
- Must complete an online assessment after submitting your application
- *Think carefully about which specialism and location you select!*

SELL YOURSELF!



Don't be modest...

Why should you be chosen over the other 9,000 applicants??

Helpful advice for the application form



- Give examples of anything that you've done that is innovative or forward thinking (*doesn't have to be science related!*)
- How did you see the future of healthcare science?
- How do you see the care we deliver to patients in the NHS changing? THE BIGGER PICTURE! (7 day services)

Format of Interview



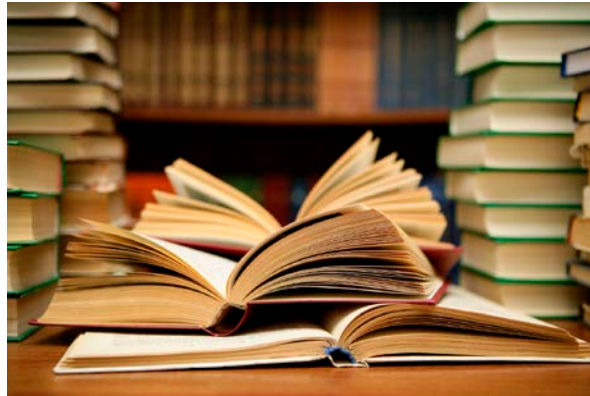
- Speed dating format!
 - Different stations (~4x 10min) assess different qualities
- Location: Birmingham

What aspects may be covered in the interview?

- Specific subject knowledge → Does your chosen specialism have a society website?
- Knowledge of training course → NSHCS website
- Patient interaction
- Leadership skills
- Communication!



Helpful advice for the interviews...



- Read as much as you can around your chosen specialism → new advances, current technology
- Visit a department if you have the opportunity
- Speak to current STP's! (contacts on the NWHCS website)
- It's ok to ask questions during the interview to clarify what has been asked → they don't expect you to know everything (just yet!)

Dress smartly and appropriately!!!



Structure of the Training Programme



- Part time over 3 years
- Two aspects- worked based learning and university
- Initial teaching period in year 1 – 6 weeks followed by exams in Jan & May/June

Structure of the training programme



- Exam/coursework balance varies dependent on specialism
- Research project undertaken in year 2 and completed in year 3
- Further teaching weeks (1-4 weeks) take place throughout years 2&3

Structure of the Training Programme

-Work Based Training



- Online Assessment Tool (OLAT) assesses work-based tasks
- Completed throughout whole training programme
- Specialism split into modules with individual assessments
 - 1st year – 4 x rotations
 - 2nd and 3rd year – specialist modules

Continued...



- 4 styles of assessment: -
 - Competencies
 - Direct Observation of Practical Skills (DOPS)
 - Observed Clinical Event (OCE)
 - Case based discussion (CBD)
- All must be completed to exit STP



Online Learning and Assessment Tool

National School of Healthcare Science

[Home](#)[Assessments](#)[Competency Log](#)[Reflective Log](#)[MSFs](#)[Preferences](#)[About Us](#)

Welcome Samantha

Welcome to the Online Learning Assessment Tool. To begin, use the menu above or the panels on this page to navigate to each section of the tool.

Activated Competencies

CCS-3 C17

Write a technical specification for...

R & SS-7 C15

Record results of cardiopulmonary...

R & SS-7 C13

Complete appropriate documentation...

EL-C-3

Plan, prepare and deliver an oral...

Trainee Video Guides



- [Training Video Guides](#)
- [DOPs](#)
- [MSF](#)
- [OCE](#)
- [CBD](#)
- [Competencies](#)

Useful Documents and Links

Generic

- [Trainee User Guide](#)
- [Training Officer and Supervisor User Guide](#)
- [Reviewer User Guide](#)
- [Assessor User Guide](#)
- [Rater User Guide](#)
- [Multi Source Feedback Guide](#)
- [DOPS Assessment Questions and Rating Criteria](#)
- [STP Number of Assessments 2012 and 2013 trainees.pdf](#)
- [STP Number of Assessments 2014 Trainees Onwards.pdf](#)
- [OCE Assessment Questions and Rating Criteria v2](#)
- [CBD Assessment Questions and Rating](#)

[Competency Progress](#)[Assessments Progress](#)[MSFs](#)

Rotation

Device Risk Management and Governance

16 out of 16

**Introduction to Cardiac Science**

18 out of 18

**Introduction to Critical Care Science**

16 out of 16

**Introduction to Respiratory and Sleep Science**

17 out of 17

**Professional Practice**

26 out of 28



Specialism

Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques in Critical Care

8 out of 10

**Elective**

1 out of 3

**Life Support and Emergency Resuscitation**

17 out of 17

**Monitoring and Supporting Critically Ill Patients**

18 out of 20

**Respiratory and Sleep Science 2 for Critical Care**

12 out of 18



Final Assessment



- Objective Structured Final Assessment (OSFA) determines whether you 'pass' the STP – can you practice safely as a Clinical Scientist?
- Held at the end of year 3
- Based on curriculum completed in the work-place

Final Assessment



- Similar ‘speed-dating’ style structure to initial interview: -
 - 12 stations (4 generic & 8 specialist)
 - Stations are 15min in duration (2min for preparation & 12min assessment)
 - Assessment may include actors to examine hypothetical situations
- Mock OSFAs will be held early in 3rd year

Registration as a Clinical Scientist

- To successfully exit the STP you will be required to complete 3 individual components: -
 - MSc university work
 - Work-based assessments (OLAT)
 - OSFA
- Completion of all 3 will grant you registration as a Clinical Scientist with the HCPC

Why choose the training programme?



- Excellent unique opportunity
- Prestige – creating the future leaders of healthcare science
- Blended learning - written and practical skills
- Local and national scientific networks
- Networking events



Job prospects post STP

- You may be eligible to apply for employment as a Clinical Scientist
- There may be opportunities to commence higher specialist scientific training (HSST) – 5 year training programme
- You are ***not*** automatically provided with a job at your training centre although roles should be available nationally

Thank you Any Questions?



www.nshcs.org: National School of Healthcare Science

www.nwhcs.nhs.uk: North West Healthcare Science Network

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/not-studying-health-related-degree/nhs-scientist-training-programme: NHS Careers Website Scientific Training Programme Section

www.gov.uk/government/publications/extraordinary-you

Document which celebrates the careers of healthcare scientists working across the NHS. Good to find out more information about the different specialisms.

GOOD LUCK!