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# Financial support for healthcare programmes

Did you know that the NHS provides support for students who are undertaking particular Higher Education programmes?

The **NHS Learning Support Fund** (NHS LSF) provides **additional funding** to your Student Loan. It offers eligible students additional support while studying for their degree. Support can include: **a training grant, parental support** to help with childcare costs, **regional incentive payments** and **specialist subject payments** may be available, check the nhsbsa website for up to date details. To be eligible you should meet these criteria:

- You must be studying on a nursing, midwifery or allied healthcare course which leads to professional registration in one of the subjects covered below.
- Your course must have started after 1 August 2017.
- You must be studying in a university in England.
- You must be actively studying (in a university setting or in an employer setting).
- You must not be in receipt of other sponsorship that is supporting the cost of your education (this does not include any support you receive from the Student Loans Company).



Higher Education courses (leading to professional registration) covered by the Learning Support Fund include:

- Dental Therapy/Dental Hygiene
- Dietetics
- Diagnostic/Therapeutic Radiography
- Nursing (Adult, Child, Learning Disabilities, Mental Health)
- Nursing/Social Work (joint programmes)
- Midwifery
- Occupational Therapy
- Operating Department Practitioner
- Orthoptics
- Orthotics/Prosthetics
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry/Chiropody
- Speech and Language Therapy

Please refer to the nhsbsa website for the latest information. You can find out more here: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/learning-support-fund)



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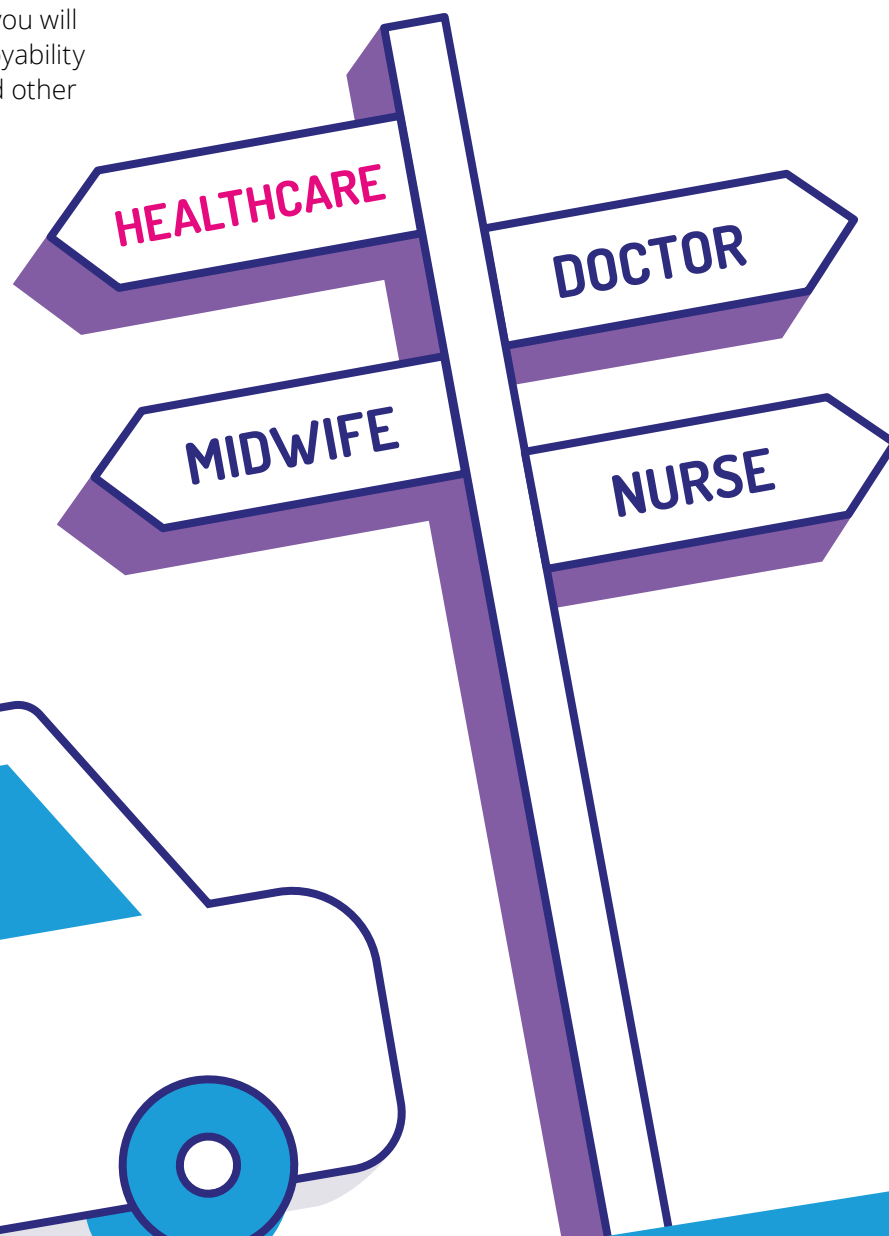
# Hello!

This handbook has been designed to help you explore jobs and careers in healthcare. Thinking about your future career options whilst you are still at school is a good idea. It can help you to decide what activities to do in your spare time and which subjects to choose. It can also help you to choose the most useful work experience opportunities.

## Making yourself employable starts at school or college

'Employability skills' are the skills that you will need in your career and will make you stand out when you're applying for jobs. At school/college you will gain subject-specific knowledge, but employability skills can be learnt on work experience and other activities you do outside of school/college.

We've identified 10 skills that are relevant to careers in healthcare. Look out for these later in this handbook and think about how you could develop them.



## Our top 10 employability skills



### 1 Using initiative and being self-motivated

Following instructions and not always having to be told what to do and when.

### 2 Organisational skills

Planning your work to meet deadlines and targets.

### 3 Working under pressure and to deadlines

Meeting deadlines and targets set for your work.

### 4 Ability to learn and adapt

Learning new things and learning from successes and failures.

### 5 Communication and interpersonal skills

Being able to explain and present your work clearly (this includes either in writing or verbally).

### 6 Teamwork

Understanding how you and others work best together.

### 7 Negotiation skills

Thinking about what you and others need and coming to a compromise that suits everyone.

### 8 Valuing diversity and difference

Respecting others and placing value on the skills and experiences that different people have.

### 9 Problem-solving skills

Identifying issues or difficulties and using your knowledge and experience to solve them.

### 10 Numeracy and IT skills

Using numbers and data to support the work that you are doing.

Throughout this handbook we'll identify which of these skills, and others, are important in specific job roles.

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# Which way for you?

## Making decisions about what you want to do

Making decisions about what you want to do for a career can seem like a scary task. It can be influenced by lots of factors. If you haven't quite decided what you want to do in healthcare, these factors might help you to come to a decision.

### Did you know?

There are over 350 different careers in the NHS – from accountants to speech therapists.

### Why are Maths and English so important?

Most Higher Education courses look for at least GCSE grade 4 (or C using the previous grading system) in Maths and English as this shows you have a good understanding of the subjects and can think in a suitably logical and numerate way. It also shows that you can communicate your thoughts clearly and have a good understanding of English language.

Some healthcare jobs or roles include joining professional groups and gaining professional status

## Factors that influence your career choices

There are many factors that affect the career choices you make. We've listed 10 of the most common ones below. You might have already considered some of them to help you choose the best healthcare role for you.

### The type of person you are/your personality

Some people are interested in working with others and supporting them. Some jobs and roles in healthcare are particularly suited to these kinds of people.

### The influence of a parent/ carer or role model

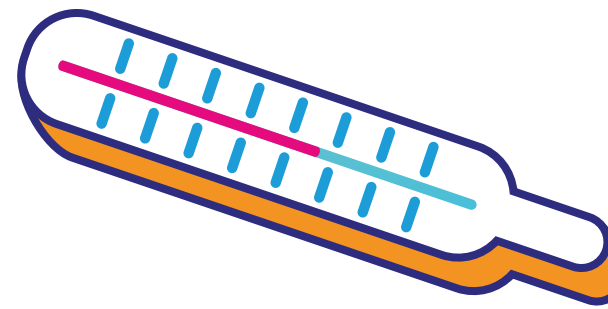
We are sometimes drawn to a particular area or career because of someone else we have seen in this role. For example, we might be influenced by a relative or someone on TV who we admire. If you know someone who works in Healthcare, speak to them about what it's like and get as much information as possible.

### School-based activity

Inspirational school activities can help you decide what to do. Have you been involved in an activity at school that has made you think about what healthcare career you'd like?

### Taster Days

Many universities and colleges offer taster days in a range of subjects, including healthcare. You can book onto these yourself in the school holidays to get hands on experience of the course you are considering. Take a look at university and college websites to find out more.



### Which subjects are you good at?

Do you enjoy science subjects that could be continued in a healthcare career?  
Are you good at writing reports?

### School performance and results

To progress into some healthcare jobs (such as medicine or dentistry) you need to perform very well at school or college. The hurdles for academic qualifications are higher in some healthcare areas than others. Look at university and apprenticeship entry requirements and see what grades you will need.

### Work experience

Selecting the right people is very important for all healthcare employers. Many employers prefer you to have relevant and meaningful work experience. Ask your careers staff at school, speak to friends and family about opportunities, look for volunteering opportunities and look at the Step into the NHS website. [www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk](http://www.stepintothenhhs.nhs.uk)

### Apprenticeship or University/ Higher Education

You can enter some healthcare jobs straight from school, but for many you'll need to continue your education. Do you prefer to earn while you learn? An apprenticeship may be for you. Learn more about apprenticeships on page 10.



### Work-life balance

Some healthcare roles require shift work and others have more regular hours. Although hours can be long and at times stressful the rewards can be substantial. Would you be willing to work anti-social hours, such as night shifts?

### Where you live

If you pursue a specialised healthcare role you might need to be flexible in terms of where you live. Think about how long your commute to work would be. Would you be willing to move to a different town or city?

### Professional status

Some healthcare roles include joining professional groups and getting professional status. Is this something that interests you?

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## Interested in Healthcare?

Nearly a third of all staff in the NHS are nurses or midwives. Here's how the staff breakdown looks across the whole of the NHS:

- Nurses and midwives 31%
- Staff who support doctors/nurses/midwives (for example a Maternity Support Worker) 27%
- Administrators and managers 18%
- Scientific and technical 14%
- Consultants 4%
- GPs 2%
- Ambulance staff 2%
- Foundation (trainee) doctors 1%

## Getting the most out of careers fairs

Careers fairs and events are a great way of finding out more information about the role you're most interested in. You can:

- speak directly to people who work in that area
- ask questions about what it's really like to work in a particular job role and/or location
- find out about the routes into that job role
- practise marketing yourself in a positive way
- make some very useful contacts
- find out about useful resources to help you make the right choices

## Why healthcare?

Healthcare is a rapidly growing employment sector. As the population grows so does the need for healthcare services. A recent report produced by the NHS highlighted that over 67,000 new jobs have been created in the last five years to meet growing healthcare demand.



## The value of work experience

Work experience is any activity or life experience that helps you prepare for a particular job or career. Good work experience can help you to enhance or develop skills. These might include:

- People-focused experience of providing a service, care or help to others
- Good communication skills and an ability to interact with a wide variety of people
- Being aware and understanding of other people's feelings
- Having a realistic understanding of a particular role because you have experienced it first hand

If you are going to undertake work experience in a healthcare setting, take a look at the Go Higher West Yorkshire 'Work Experience Student Handbook' [www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/work-experience-student-handbook](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/work-experience-student-handbook)

This has been designed to support students on placements. It includes guidance to help you prepare for your placement and reflective writing templates to help you make notes on the experience.

## What do healthcare employers say about work experience?

We asked a group of professionals in the healthcare sector to tell us about the benefits of work experience. Here's what they said:

- Work experience helps you to develop confidence and skills.
- It provides you with a better understanding of the healthcare sector.
- It will help you to develop practical experience of working in a healthcare setting.
- Working in a 'real life' healthcare setting will help you to achieve higher grades in your school or college work.
- Future employers will be impressed that you have undertaken work experience in a formal healthcare setting.
- Teamwork is crucial to all healthcare roles. Work experience placements will help you to develop skills to be an effective team member.
- Healthcare employers recognise hard work and commitment. If you make a positive impression whilst on a work placement, you are more likely to be considered for employment.

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# Apprenticeship or University, which is best for you?

Apprenticeships are a good way to get hands-on experience whilst continuing to study. People who undertake apprenticeships also earn a salary. There are lots of apprenticeships available in the NHS, including business and management, construction/estates services, dental nursing, and health and social care.



## There are four levels of apprenticeship:

**Intermediate apprenticeships**  
Equivalent to five good GCSEs

**Advanced Level apprenticeships**  
Equivalent to two A Level

**Higher apprenticeships**  
Can lead to a Higher National Certificate or Diploma or foundation degree

**Degree apprenticeships**  
Lead to a full undergraduate degree.

## What do learners say?

92% say that their apprenticeship has improved their career prospects, while 97% say that their ability to do their job has improved.

## University/college or apprenticeship?

As a university/college student you will be able to pick from lots of different courses to pursue your career interests in healthcare. A Higher Education qualification will allow you to take advantage of various opportunities and you will acquire a range of subject-specific and practical skills transferrable to many job roles.

By undertaking an apprenticeship you'll gain valuable on-the-job experience in the sector you want to work in, while studying alongside your job. All apprenticeships are paid, so you'll be earning a wage whilst you study. The cost of studying whilst undertaking an apprenticeship is paid by your employer, so you won't have to pay any tuition fees.

You can read more about apprenticeship opportunities in the NHS here: [www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/apprenticeships)

You can search for apprenticeships available in your area here: [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch)

There's more apprenticeship guidance and information on Health Education England's 'Talent for Care' website: [www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/talent-care-widening-participation](http://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/talent-care-widening-participation)



## Did you know?

- 16-24 year olds make up about half of all NHS apprenticeships.
- The NHS is the world's fifth largest employer with 1.3 million employees. The US Department of Defense is the world's largest (with 3.2 million employees).
- At least 87,000 of the NHS's 1.3 million staff are under 30.

# Working in healthcare and the NHS

The NHS (National Health Service) is the UK's Government-funded medical and healthcare service. Its services include:

- Visiting a doctor or a nurse at a doctor's surgery
- Getting help and treatment at a hospital if you are unwell or injured
- Seeing a midwife if you are pregnant
- Getting urgent treatment from a paramedic

The excellent online resource 'Apprenticeships in Health: Something for Everyone' produced by Health Careers shows the types of jobs in the NHS that are available as an apprenticeship and provides links to further information and useful websites. You can access the resource here

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/resources/apprenticeships-health](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/resources/apprenticeships-health)



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# Career Options in Healthcare

Careers in the healthcare sector are wide and varied. There are lots of opportunities to work with patients, professionals and policy-makers. For most career routes, you will need to undertake specific courses or training before you can become fully qualified to work in that role. Courses or training might need to be undertaken at college or university, but it may also be possible to train on-the-job as part of an apprenticeship or trainee programme.

Healthcare roles are often split into a number of different areas. All of these have different entry requirements and progression opportunities. The 14 main areas in healthcare are:

## Allied health professionals

These include: Art Therapist, Diagnostic Radiographers, Dieticians, Operating Department Practitioner (ODP), Physiotherapists.

**Operating Department Practitioner (ODP)**

Starting salary approx. £23,000.

Read more about this role on page 14

## Ambulance service team

These include: Ambulance Care Assistant, Emergency Care Assistant, Paramedic, Patient Transport Service (PTS) Call Handler.

**Paramedic**

Starting salary approx. £23,000.

Read more about this role on page 16

## Dental team

These include: Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Nurse, Dental Technician/Technologist, Dental Therapist.

**Dental Hygienist**

Starting salary approx. £23,000.

Read more about this role on page 18

## Doctors

These include: Anaesthetist, Clinical Radiologist, General Practitioner (GP), Paediatrician, Pathologist. All doctors regardless of speciality start on the same salary.

Starting salary approx. £26,000

(as a Doctor in training).

Read more about this role on page 22

## Health informatics

These include: Clinical Informatics, Education and training roles, Library, Knowledge and Information Services.

**Clinical Informatics – Apprenticeship**

Starting salary approx. £20,000.

Read more about this role on page 26

## Healthcare sciences

These include: Analytical Toxicology, Clinical Biochemistry, Clinical Photographer, Medical Engineer, Audiologist.

**Infection sciences**

Starting salary approx. £23,000.

Read more about this role on page 28



## Management

These include: Clinical Manager, Estates and Facilities, Finance, Human Resources, Practice Manager in a GP surgery.

**Practice Manager in a GP surgery**

Starting salary approx. £30,000.

Read more about this role on page 30

## Medical associate professions

These include: Physician Associates, Advanced Critical Care Practitioners (ACCP), Surgical Care Practitioners.

**Physician Associate**

Starting salary approx. £33,000.

Read more about this role on page 32

## Midwifery

These include: Midwife, Maternity Support Worker, Neonatal Nurse, Health Visitor, Newborn Hearing Screener.

**Maternity support worker**

Starting salary approx. £17,000.

Read more about this role on page 34

## Nursing

These include: Adult Nurse, Children's Nurse, Learning Disability Nurse, Mental Health Nurse.

**Mental Health Nurse**

Starting salary approx. £23,000.

Read more about this role on page 36

## Pharmacy

These include: Pharmacist, Pharmacy Assistant/Medicines Counter Assistant, Pharmacy Technician.

**Pharmacy Technician**

Starting salary approx. £20,000.

Read more about this role on page 38

## Psychological therapies

These include: Assistant Clinical Psychologist, Counselling Psychologist, Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner.

**Clinical Psychologist**

Starting salary approx. £33,000.

Read more about this role on page 40

## Public health

These include: Health Visitors, School Nurses and other public health nurses, Environmental Health Professionals.

**Health Visitor**

Starting salary approx. £28,000.

Read more about this role on page 42

## Wider healthcare team

These include: Administration, Clinical support services, Corporate services, Domestic services, Estates services.

**Corporate services (communications and PR)**

Starting salary approx. £17,000.

Read more about this role on page 44

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# Allied Health Professionals



Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) provide treatment and help rehabilitate adults and children who are ill, or have disabilities or special needs, to live life as fully as possible. They work across a wide range of settings including the community, people's homes and schools, and hospitals. They often work in the independent sector and for charities.

## How to get there: Operating Department Practitioner (ODP)

Operating Department Practitioners work with patients of all ages. They provide care and support during each phase of a patient's time before and after their operation. You'll need to study for a two-year diploma or three-year degree in Operating Department Practice at university. Part-time courses are available. You will usually need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C/4 or equivalent) plus A Level (or equivalent) qualifications. These will vary depending on the university so check with the universities you are considering applying to.

## Examples of jobs you can do as an allied health professional include:

Art Therapist, Diagnostic Radiographer, Dietician, Drama Therapist, Music Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Operating Department Practitioner, Orthopist, Osteopath, Physiotherapist, Podiatrist, Prosthetist/Orthotist, Speech and Language Therapist, Therapeutic Radiographer.

*"Open days really give you an insight into life at a university and you're also able to go to talks about your course, funding, accommodation and extra-curricular activities. I would recommend going to open days for all the universities you're considering applying to and experience as much as possible whilst you're on campus. I would also suggest going for a tour around the university library as you'll probably be spending a lot of time there!"*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

You will need to have excellent communication skills in order to interact with patients and other people within a healthcare setting.

### Teamwork

You must be willing to work as part of a team with other medical and hospital staff.

### Organisational skills

It is essential that ODPs can organise tasks and coordinate others in the healthcare setting.

### Working under pressure and to deadlines

You need to be able to handle the pressures that come with managing patient safety and care in complex settings.

## Local providers

At the University of Huddersfield, one of Go Higher West Yorkshire's partners, you can study a 3-year full-time degree (BSc (Hons) Operating Department Practice).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required) Maths and English at grade 4 or above.
- Post-16 (one of the following are required) A levels (B, B, C), BTEC National Extended Diploma (Distinction, Merit, Merit), Access to HE Diploma (Distinction, 15 credits & Merit, 30 credits).

## What's the job like as an Operating Department Practitioner (ODP)?

ODPs care for patients before, during and after an operation. In this job you'd make sure that the operating theatre and the equipment is prepared for the surgical team. Typically, you would:

- Prepare the operating theatre
- Prepare equipment such as drips, instruments, dressings and swabs
- Check the cleanliness of the operating theatre
- Make sure specialist equipment is available for specific procedures
- Give the surgical team items during an operation – often called 'circulating duties'
- Monitor instruments
- Order drugs and other items
- Rotate items which can be used more than once
- Keep accurate records
- You might also assess patients before they can come into a surgical ward. You could also review the care they have received at each stage.

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in the Allied Health professions:

### NHS careers – Allied health professionals

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals)

### The Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists

[cop.org.uk](http://cop.org.uk)

### The Society and College of Radiographers

[www.sor.org](http://www.sor.org)

### The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

[www.rcslt.org](http://www.rcslt.org)

### The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

[www.csp.org.uk](http://www.csp.org.uk)

### British and Irish Orthoptic Society

[www.orthoptics.org.uk](http://www.orthoptics.org.uk)

### Royal College of Occupational Therapists

[www.rcot.co.uk](http://www.rcot.co.uk)

### The British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists

[www.bapo.com](http://www.bapo.com)

### The Association of UK Dietitians

[www.bda.uk.com](http://www.bda.uk.com)

### The British Association of Dramatherapists

[badth.org.uk](http://badth.org.uk)

### The British Association of Art Therapists

[www.baat.org](http://www.baat.org)

### The British Association for Music Therapy

[www.bamt.org](http://www.bamt.org)

### College of Operating Department Practitioners

[www.unison.org.uk/at-work/health-care/representing-you/unison-partnerships/codp](http://www.unison.org.uk/at-work/health-care/representing-you/unison-partnerships/codp)

### Higher Education courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners

[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/allied-health-professionals](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/allied-health-professionals)

## Allied Health Professionals

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare subjects, e.g. Physiotherapy

### UCAS

[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

### National Careers Service

[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

### Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

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# Ambulance Service Team

Ambulance service staff provide care at the scene of an emergency, drive ambulances and other vehicles, and care for the patients travelling in them. Staff in the control room take calls and send ambulance service staff and vehicles to where they are needed.

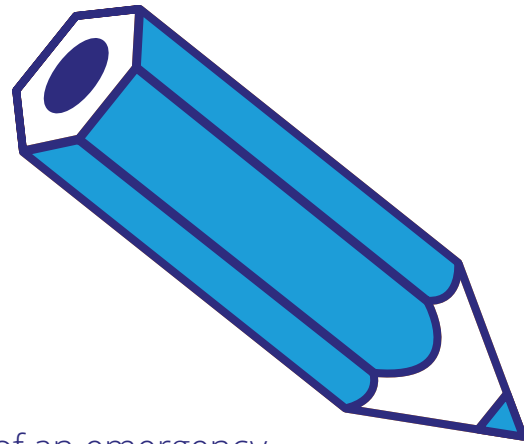
## How to get there: Paramedic

Paramedics are highly-skilled healthcare professionals who work in a range of emergency and non-emergency situations. They are usually the first to arrive at the scene of an accident or emergency. Paramedics are usually the senior member of a two-person ambulance crew, working with an emergency care assistant or technician who provides support to their main role. Paramedics are trained to resuscitate and/or stabilise patients using sophisticated techniques, equipment and drugs.

To practise as a paramedic, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). To register with the HCPC, you first need to successfully complete an approved qualification in paramedic science. There are different routes to studying and qualifying as a paramedic. You can (a) take a full-time approved qualification in paramedic science (e.g. at a university) and then apply to an ambulance service as a qualified paramedic, or (b) become a student paramedic with an ambulance service and study while you work. To apply to undertake a programme in paramedic science or to become a student paramedic you will usually need at least five GCSEs, grade C/4 or above, including English, Maths and Science.

## Examples of jobs you can do as part of the ambulance service team include:

Ambulance Care Assistant, Patient Transport Service (PTS) Driver, Call Handler/Emergency Medical Dispatcher, Emergency Care Assistant, Experienced Paramedic, Paramedic, Patient Transport Service (PTS) Call Handler.



## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

You will need to have very good communication skills as you will provide assessment of patients and plan and implement their care and treatment.

### Teamwork

Working with others is an essential part of being a paramedic. Typically, you will work as part of a two-person ambulance crew. However, you may be required to work alone in a rapid response vehicle.

### Working under pressure and to deadlines

The ability to work in demanding situations and make sound decisions in a time-pressured environment are key skills required for effective paramedics.

### Valuing diversity and difference

Paramedics can be deployed to situations in all parts of the region, working with diverse community groups. Successful paramedics are sensitive to the needs of people and are respectful of lifestyle choices and differences.

## Local providers

At the University of Bradford, one of Go Higher West Yorkshire partners, you can study towards a 4-year full-time degree (BSc (Hons) Paramedic Science). This programme includes one year where you are paid to work with the ambulance service, which provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable work experience.

You can also become a student paramedic with Yorkshire Ambulance Service and study while you work. Places for student paramedics are limited and the competition for them is fierce. To apply you will usually be asked to attend an assessment centre. The process usually includes: an interview, an English and maths test, problem solving tasks, a fitness assessment, and a practical driving task.

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required) Maths, English and a Science at grade C/4 or above.
- Post-16 (one of the following is required) A Levels (128 UCAS tariff points from three A Levels to include at least one science subject). BTEC National Extended Diploma (Distinction, Distinction, Merit) – Health or Science subject required. Access to HE Diploma (128 UCAS tariff points, at least 12 credits in Science must be at minimum grade Distinction).

## Work experience is really important if you want to become a paramedic

When assessing applications to become paramedics, employers will expect you to have some related care experience. This may include:

- Any role in which you've dealt with the public.
- Experience of dealing with sick, disabled and/or elderly people.
- First aid certificates as evidence of your interest.
- Voluntary experience in organisations such as St John Ambulance/British Red Cross.
- Experience in life-saving techniques, which you can gain by volunteering as a community first responder in association with local ambulance services.
- Office-based work in an ambulance service.

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in the Ambulance Service Team:

### NHS careers – Ambulance Service Team

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/ambulance-service-team)

### The College of Paramedics

[www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk](http://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk)

### Higher Education courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners.

[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/ambulance-service-team](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/ambulance-service-team)

## Ambulance Service Team

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare subjects, e.g. Paramedic Science.

### UCAS

[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

### National Careers Service

[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

### Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

.....  
*"For those interested in Paramedic Science, I would suggest you research the job as much as possible to ensure it is the career for you. Look at the universities which offer the course, as they have different entry requirements and their course structures and placement opportunities can differ."*

### Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.

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# Dental Team

In recent years, oral health has improved as more of us are better at looking after our teeth. The skills of the dental team, coupled with advances in dentistry, mean that a visit to the dentist is seen as a positive way to support health and well-being. However there are still high levels of disease to address, as well as maintaining and improving oral and general health.

## How to get there: Dental Hygienist

Dental hygienists offer advice, information and treatments to prevent and treat tooth decay and gum disease. Typically, a dental hygienist will encourage patients to look after their teeth and gums by demonstrating tooth brushing and flossing and giving advice on diet to enhance dental health. Treatments provided by dental hygienists include: removing plaque, cleaning and polishing teeth to help prevent gum disease, applying antibacterial treatments to reduce decay, giving local anaesthetic under the supervision of a dentist, and applying temporary coatings and sealants to protect teeth.

To be a dental hygienist you will need five GCSE subjects grade C/4 or equivalent, plus two A Levels or a recognised dental nursing qualification. Good communication skills are very important and, given that you might work in different settings, you will probably be the kind of person who enjoys a job with plenty of variety.

To practise as a dental hygienist, you need to take an appropriate course approved by the General Dental Council (GDC). You will then need to register with the GDC. The course is offered by dental schools and usually takes two years or up to 27 months full-time.

*"Having suitable work experience is crucial when applying to study dentistry. I found it quite difficult to get experience in a dental practice, but my other experience (in a care setting) was just as valuable for my application."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**

## Examples of jobs you can do as part of the dental team include:

Dentist, Dental Hygienist, Dental Nurse, Dental Technician/Technologist, Dental Therapist.

### Key skills

#### Communication and interpersonal skills

Excellent communication skills are important to interact with patients and explain procedures and treatments. Empathy and being able to understand patients' dental issues or concerns are important elements of the job. Effective dental hygienists use these skills to put patients at ease.

### Teamwork

Dental hygienists work closely with dentists and administrative staff to support and deliver treatments.

### Local providers

At the University of Leeds, one of Go Higher West Yorkshire's partners, you can study towards a 3-year full-time degree (BSc (Hons) Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy).

### Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required)  
Maths and English at grade C/4 or above.
- Post-16 (one of the following is required)  
A Levels (3 A Levels at Grade ABB which must include Biology). Access to HE Diploma (45 credits at Level 3, with at least 30 credits at Distinction level).



## Interested in becoming a dentist? They aren't all the same.

To become a dentist you need to study at dental school for a degree in dentistry. These programmes last 5 years and are very competitive to secure. Entry requirements are similar or the same as those for medicine. In order to become a dentist you must undergo additional training after your degree programme. From here, you can then specialise in a number of areas:

### Community Dentist

This healthcare professional works in specialist centres, mobile clinics, or care homes to offer dental care to children, those with special or particular needs, and elderly patients.

### Hospital Dentist

A hospital dentist treats patients in a hospital setting, using advanced techniques and complex dental and surgical procedures. Some dentists specialise further, for example, in the treatment of children (paediatric dentistry).

### Maxillofacial Surgeon

This specialised dentist provides reconstructive surgery to patients who have defects or injuries. They often work to correct or treat cleft palates, injuries caused by accidents, or tumours in or around the mouth, jaw or face.

### Orthodontist

Many young people benefit from the specialised service of an orthodontist. This kind of dentist corrects the alignment of the teeth and jaws by fitting tooth braces and space retainers.

### Public Health Dentist

This kind of dentist assesses the dental needs of a region rather than an individual patient. They give advice or guidance to people on how to prevent dental disease. They also ensure that dental needs in an area or region are maintained.

There are a range of other opportunities available in dentistry, including apprenticeship programmes in dental support roles.

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in the dental team:

**NHS careers – Dental team**  
[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/dental-team](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/dental-team)

**British Dental Association**  
[bda.org](http://bda.org)

**The British Association of Dental Nurses**  
[badn.org.uk](http://badn.org.uk)

**General Dental Council**  
[www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org)

**British Society of Dental Hygiene and Therapy**  
[www.bsdt.org.uk](http://www.bsdt.org.uk)

**Higher Education courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners**  
[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/dental-team](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/dental-team)

### Dental team

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare subjects, e.g. "dental nurse".

**UCAS**  
[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

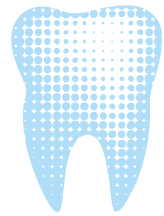
**National Careers Service**  
[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

**Prospects**  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

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**NORDEC**  
NORTHERN DENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

# NORDEC

The Northern Dental Education Centre (NORDEC), part of Bradford College, offers courses and apprenticeship linked to dentistry. NORDEC provides technical and practical skills and knowledge, which will equip students to seek employment or further training within the dental health industry.

With a Certificate or apprenticeship from NORDEC learners can progress into a number of career paths including dental receptionist, dental decontamination, assistant dental support worker or student dental nurse.

*"The facilities here are really good. Not only do we have phantom head rooms, but we also have a Practice Surgery as well."*

**NORDEC student**

*"Following my certificate programme, I want to move on to do Dental Hygiene at University, and this course will help me progress to that."*

**Megan, NORDEC student**



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# Doctors

If you have a passion for improving people's lives and the determination to reach the highest standards, there's a wide range of career opportunities open to you as a doctor. There really is something for everyone and you can follow a path to one of many specialties, from working in a hospital as a specialist doctor or surgeon, to being based in the community as a GP.

## How to get there: General Practitioner (GP)

General practitioners (GPs) treat all common medical conditions and refer patients to hospitals and other medical services for urgent and specialist treatment. GPs are doctors who provide medical services to people in the community. They focus on the health of the whole person combining physical, psychological and social aspects of care.

Training usually starts with a five-year degree in medicine. You'll then complete two years of foundation training and then three years of specialty training. This period of training will include your Royal College exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

## Examples of jobs you can do as a doctor include:

Anaesthetist, Clinical Oncologist, Clinical Radiologist, Emergency Medicine, General Practitioner (GP), Intensive Care Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Occupational Medicine, Ophthalmologists, Paediatrician, Pathologist, Psychiatrist, Public Health, Surgery.

*"Opportunities are scarce when it comes to applying to medical school; whether it's work experience or opportunities in your school – especially if you come from a non-medical background. Grabbing every opportunity every chance you get ensures you have a wide range of experiences to reflect on."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

You will need excellent communication skills for clearly explaining diagnoses and treatments to patients.

### Problem-solving skills

These are essential for accurately assessing illness and injury, and diagnosing the best course of treatment.

### Valuing diversity and difference

Empathy and being able to understand patients' issues, a caring approach, and the ability to put people at ease, are all important.

### Numeracy and IT skills

It is important to have good technical and computer skills to keep records and operate sophisticated medical hardware.

## Local providers

At the University of Leeds, one of Go Higher West Yorkshire's partners, you can study towards a 5-year full-time degree (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery – MB ChB).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required) Six grade B/6 to include Maths and English.
- Post-16 (one of the following are required) A Levels (3 A Levels at Grade AAA which must include Chemistry or Biology). Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to access support for your application, such as alternative entry requirements. For example: Six grade C/4 GCSEs to include Maths and English, and 3 A Levels at Grade ABB which must include Chemistry or Biology.



## How long does it take to become a doctor?

There are many different types of doctor including Anaesthetist, General Practitioner (GP), Emergency Medicine Doctor, Gynaecologist, and Paediatrician. Becoming qualified in each of these specialised areas takes many years to achieve.

Everyone who trains to become a doctor follows a similar programme, the final stage determines which type of doctor trainees become. Take a look at the process of becoming a GP provided by the Royal College of General Practitioners.



## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working as a doctor:

**NHS careers – Doctors**  
[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/EXPLORE-roles/doctors](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/EXPLORE-roles/doctors)

**Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)**  
[www.rcgp.org.uk](http://www.rcgp.org.uk)

**British Medical Association (BMA)**  
[www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)

**Royal College of Surgeons**  
[www.rcseng.ac.uk](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk)

**Royal College of Ophthalmologists**  
[www.rcophth.ac.uk](http://www.rcophth.ac.uk)

**Higher Education courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners**  
[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/doctors](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/doctors)

**Doctors**  
 Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare subjects, e.g : "Oncology".

**UCAS**  
[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

**National Careers Service**  
[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

**Prospects**  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

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# My route to becoming a GP...

## Where do I start?

### GCSE / Scottish Nationals

All medical schools require different things. As a rough guide they'll ask for a minimum of five GCSE passes at grades A-C

(9–4) or equivalent including subjects such as Maths and English.

### A level / Further Education / Scottish Highers

Again, each medical school will have its own entry requirements. Most are looking for the following:

- A\*A\*A – AAA at A level or AAAAB – AAABB for Scottish Highers.
- Some schools look for specific subjects to be taken such as Chemistry and others offer contextualised admissions which allow entry with lower grades.
- To find out more about each medical school's entry requirements visit: [medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/making-an-application/entry-requirements](https://medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/making-an-application/entry-requirements)

### Applying to Medical School

When applying you'll need to:

- Have achieved good exam results throughout school, college or sixth form and have good predicted grades.
- Have developed an understanding of the career through activities such as work experience and volunteering.
- Take an admissions test where necessary such as UKCAT, BMAT or GAMSAT.
- Usually attend an interview to demonstrate the non-academic attributes that you have written about in your personal statement.

## What next?

### University Degree

- Study for between 5-6 years depending on your course and choose from 40 medical schools in the UK!
- While at medical school you'll:
  - Gain relevant skills and experiences in basic medical sciences and practical clinical tasks.
  - Carry out wide range of clinical placements under supervision, spending time in GP practices, hospitals and specialist clinics.
  - Sit exams and carry out a wide range of projects that develop skills such as teamwork and communication.

### Foundation Programme

- Having graduated from medical school you'll become a foundation doctor – your first paid job as a doctor! You'll carry out two years of training known as F1 and F2.
- The foundation programme involves six different rotations across a wide range of medical specialties. These rotations enable you to gain valuable experience and become competent in basic clinical skills.
- You'll also be able to further develop non-clinical skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and research.

## Progressing to...

### GP Specialty Training

- To become a GP in the UK, you will need to complete a minimum of three years (full time equivalent) specialty training.
- During these three years you'll typically spend 18 months in hospital posts and 18 months in general practice.
- As part of your training you'll carry out a series of assessments. Once you have passed them, you will be able to join the GMC's GP Register.
- For more information visit [gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk](https://gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk)

## What is the RCGP and how can it help you?

The RCGP is the professional membership body for GPs and is here to help you explore and discover the endless opportunities general practice has to offer. Becoming a GP is incredibly enriching and rewarding, it is a career that is diverse and fulfilling.

Discover a career with endless opportunities at [rcgp.org.uk/discovergp](https://rcgp.org.uk/discovergp)

### Top Tips

Medical degrees can have different names, but they tend to fit into four types:

- Standard Entry Medicine (5 or 6 years)
- Graduate Entry Medicine (4 or 5 years)
- Medicine with a Preliminary Year (6 years)
- Medicine with a Gateway Year (6 years)

For more information visit [medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine](https://medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine)

Medical schools are looking for applicants who have the correct academic aptitude but who are also able to demonstrate the core values and attributes required to study medicine.

Find out more at [medschools.ac.uk](https://medschools.ac.uk)

Most medical schools will ask you to demonstrate what you have learnt and gained from work experience, caring activities and voluntary experience. Remember, it is what you have learnt from these experiences that is important – not how many hours you have completed. To find out more about work experience visit [medschools.ac.uk](https://medschools.ac.uk)

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# Health informatics

Health informatics is the intelligent use of information and technology to provide better care. It's one of the fastest growing areas in health. Every day in the health sector, information has to be collected, managed, used and shared. Good patient care depends on this fast and accurate flow of information.

## How to get there: Clinical Informatics – Apprenticeship

Clinical informatics staff capture, communicate and use data and clinical knowledge to support health professionals. They also develop and implement a range of digital tools to support this.

Entry requirements will differ depending on the role. It may be possible to get an entry level job with no formal qualifications, but GCSEs or equivalent qualifications are an advantage. Apprenticeships in health informatics combine paid employment with formal training. Apprenticeships are open to anyone over 16.

## Examples of jobs you can do in health informatics include:

Clinical Informatics, Education and Training roles, Health Records and Patient Administration, Information and Communication Technology, Information Management staff, Library, Knowledge and Information Services, Project and Programme Management.

.....  
*"In terms of a career, I wanted something that combined my love of science with being able to interact with people every day. A varied and interesting work day; combined with the opportunity to teach and participate in research were also aspects I was looking for."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**  
 .....

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

The ability to communicate clearly with other healthcare professionals is an essential element of this healthcare role.

### Problem-solving skills

Many professionals working in clinical informatics are excellent problem-solvers and can work out the best way to capture and present data.

### Organisational skills

You'll often be working with large sets of data, you will need to carefully structure and organise this in order to report effectively to others.

### Numeracy and IT skills

Very good computer skills are required to analyse data using specialised software.

## Local providers

Availability of courses varies around the region, so take a look at the careers pages on your local healthcare trust's website. With A Levels, equivalent vocational qualifications and/or some work experience, you can start your career as a health informatics trainee or through a higher apprenticeship.

## Is health informatics the right career for you?

Health informatics is one of the most rapidly growing areas of healthcare. To help you work out if this is the right career for you, take a look at some typical characteristics of professionals who work in this area:

### You like numbers and crunching them

Capturing, grouping and analysing healthcare data is critically important to support the rapid development of healthcare treatments and cures for illnesses. If you are good with numbers and can easily identify ways to group or analyse them, then this career route might be good for you.

### You are good with computers and technology

With the increase in health data, health professionals also have new kinds of technology to collect, analyse, and use that information. Health informatics professionals are required to use advanced computing skills to support research and decision-making within healthcare organisations. They also learn imaging techniques and how to incorporate media and multimedia into more effective patient education materials and systems.

### Problem-solvers

Health informatics professionals are often challenged to help the discovery of solutions to healthcare problems or issues. Being resilient is a key part of the job; you'll be responsible for assessing systems and processes and making them better and error-free.

## Did you know?

The amazing human heart  
 Beats per year **36,792,000**  
 Beats per day **100,800**  
 Beats per hour **4,200**  
 Beats per minute **70**

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in Health Informatics:

**NHS careers – Health Informatics**  
[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics)

**Federation for Informatics Professionals (FEDIP)**  
[fedip.org](http://fedip.org)

**Association of Professional Healthcare Analysts**  
[www.aphanalysts.org](http://www.aphanalysts.org)

**(BCS) The Chartered Institute for IT**  
[www.bcs.org](http://www.bcs.org)

**Higher Education courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners**  
[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/health-informatics](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/health-informatics)

## Health informatics

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare subjects, e.g. "information management".

**UCAS**  
[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

**National Careers Service**  
[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

**Prospects**  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

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# Healthcare Science

Healthcare science staff play a vital role in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of a huge number of medical conditions, as well as in rehabilitation. Rapid advances in science and technology mean this is now one of the most exciting, challenging and rewarding areas of the health system. The work of healthcare science staff is grouped into four main areas, based on the type of science involved in their work: clinical bioinformatics, life sciences, physical sciences and biomedical engineering, and physiological sciences.

## How to get there: Infection Sciences

Within a wider public health role, Infection Sciences professionals work in the prevention and control of epidemics, which may involve susceptibility testing of the infectious pathogens to antimicrobial drugs, such as antibiotics, that will guide the treatment of patients. Most Infection Sciences professionals are hospital based, and will spend most of their time working in a pathology laboratory, using a broad range of sophisticated, innovative techniques, such as the molecular detection of pathogens.

## There are two entry points:

- With at least two or three A Levels including science subjects and a good spread of GCSEs at C/4 or equivalent, you can apply through the NHS Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) by taking an accredited BSc degree in healthcare science (infection sciences).
- You can apply for a place on the graduate-entry NHS Scientist Training Programme with 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 your specialism.

## Examples of jobs you can do in healthcare science include:

Analytical Toxicology, Clinical Biochemistry, Cryptopathology, Genomics, Infection Sciences, Clinical Measurement, Clinical Photography, Medical Engineering, Audiology, Critical Care Science, Vascular Science.

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

You will need good communication skills to be able to liaise with the healthcare team and to advise and reassure patients.

### Teamwork

This is important for investigating causes of illness quickly and effectively.

### Working under pressure and to deadlines

Meticulous attention to detail is required to produce highly accurate work even when under pressure.

### Numeracy and IT skills

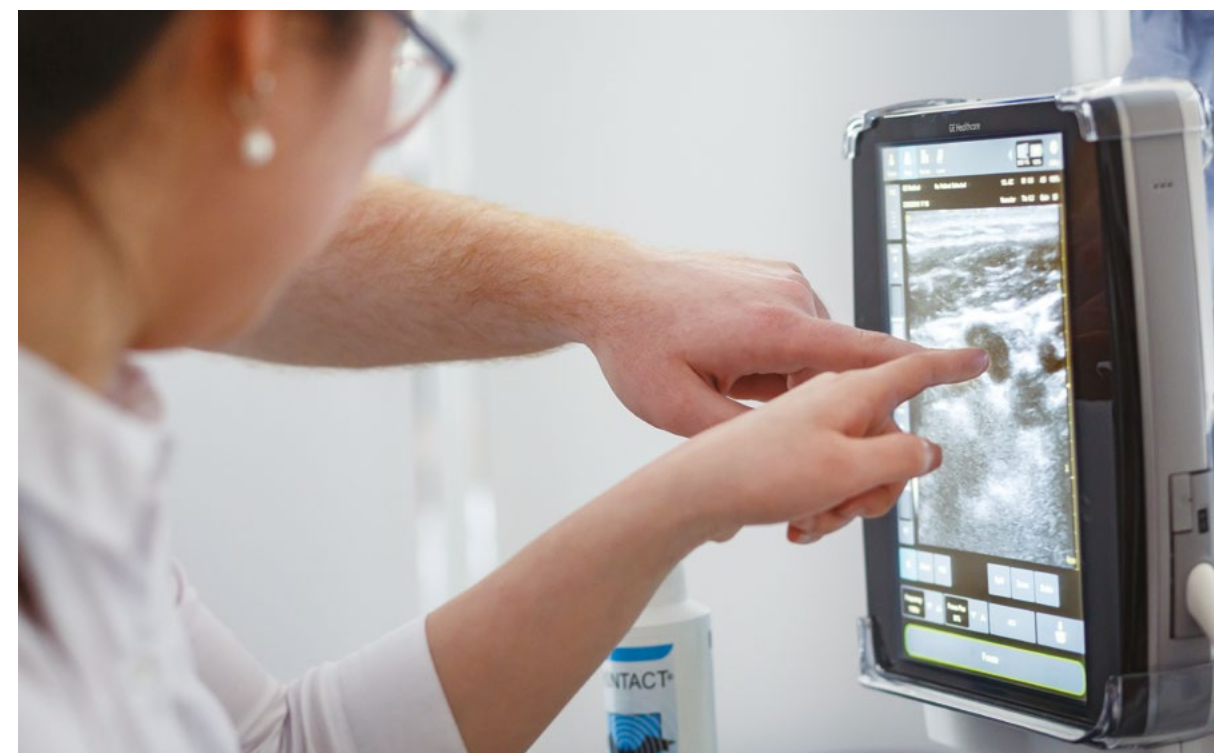
You will need good technical and computer skills for using advanced data analysis tools and complex equipment.

## Local providers

At the University of Bradford, one of Go Higher West Yorkshire's partners, you can study towards a 3-year full-time degree (BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required Maths, English at grade C/4 or above).
- Post-16 (one of the following is required. A Levels (3 A Levels at Grade BBB which must include Biology or Chemistry). BTEC National Extended Diploma (Distinction, Distinction, Distinction – in relevant Science subject area). Access to HE Diploma (120 UCAS tariff points to include A Level Biology or Chemistry at grade B, plus GCSE English, Maths and two Sciences at grade C or 4).



## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in Healthcare Science:

### NHS careers – Healthcare science

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science)

### Academy for Healthcare Science

[www.ahcs.ac.uk](http://www.ahcs.ac.uk)

### British Academy of Audiology

[www.baaudiology.org](http://www.baaudiology.org)

### Institute of Medical Illustrators

[www.imi.org.uk](http://www.imi.org.uk)

### Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)

[www.ipem.ac.uk](http://www.ipem.ac.uk)

### Higher Education courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners

[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/healthcare-sciences](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/healthcare-sciences)

## Healthcare Science

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare subjects, e.g. "biochemistry".

### UCAS

[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

### National Careers Service

[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

### Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

.....  
*"Working in the NHS opens so many doors up for you. You don't have to stay in one area. There are so many different opportunities, working in the hospitals or in the community – there is a place for everyone."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**  
 .....

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# Management

Health service managers often have a clinical background. They are responsible for commissioning and delivering local healthcare, through managing hospital, GP and community health services. If you like the idea of a career in management, the sector offers lots of opportunity and variety. Leaders are also needed in all parts of the system, including community health providers, mental health trusts, the NHS 111 service and clinical commissioning groups.

## How to get there: Practice Manager in a GP surgery

Practice managers work in General Practice settings, where they manage the overall running of the surgery. Working as a practice manager means you will be working in a very busy environment as this is the place where people have their most frequent contact with the NHS. People enter practice management from a variety of backgrounds. Experience of managing in a healthcare environment is often required or preferred. As a practice manager, you're usually required to hold a relevant healthcare management qualification: either the Certificate/ Diploma in Primary Care and Health Management awarded by the Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers, Administrators and Receptionists or the Vocational Training Scheme for General Practice Managers – awarded by the Institute of Healthcare Management.

You could enter a career in practice management from a range of different backgrounds. You don't necessarily need to be a qualified healthcare professional. Qualifications and experience required will vary, but you'll usually need a management qualification, and a proven experience of motivating people. Experience of working in the NHS/general practice can be an advantage.

## Examples of jobs you can do in management include:

Clinical Manager, Estates and Facilities, Finance, Human Resources, Operational Management, Practice Manager in a GP surgery.

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are important for working with other healthcare professionals and meeting patients.

### Negotiation skills

You will need the ability to challenge the way things are and find better alternatives to serve patients and secure value for money when purchasing supplies or equipment.

### Valuing diversity and difference

Understanding patients' issues, and a commitment to the ideals of quality and fairness in delivering healthcare are important elements of the work of a Practice Manager.

### Numeracy and IT skills

Excellent financial skills are required as Practice Managers coordinate the income and expenditure for the General Practice.

## Local providers

Within Go Higher West Yorkshire a number of our partners currently offer management degree programmes. At Bradford College you can study towards a 3-year full-time degree (BA (Hons) Business Management).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required) Maths, English at grade C/4 or above.
- Post-16 (one of the following is required A Levels (3 A Levels at Grade CDE or BCD). BTEC National Extended Diploma (Merit, Merit, Pass). Access to HE Diploma (Overall Pass required including 45 credits at Level 3).

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in Management:

**NHS careers – Management**  
[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/management](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/management)

**Institute of Healthcare Management**  
[ihm.org.uk](http://ihm.org.uk)

**Faculty of Public Health**  
[www.fph.org.uk](http://www.fph.org.uk)

**NHS Leadership Academy**  
[www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk](http://www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk)

**Courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners**  
[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/management](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/management)

## Management

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare subjects, e.g. "management".

**UCAS**  
[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

**National Careers Service**  
[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

**Prospects**  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

.....  
*"Although the courses may have the same title, their content and academic challenge varies at different universities and sometimes understanding where you will best excel is important in ensuring that you achieve your goal."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**  
 .....



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# Medical associate professions



There are many new roles in the NHS working within multi-professional teams. This is part of the NHS's continuing drive to provide safe, accessible and high-quality care for patients.

## How to get there: Physician Associate

Physician associates are trained to perform a number of roles, including taking medical histories, performing examinations, diagnosing illnesses, analysing test results and developing management plans for the care of patients. Physician associates support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients. They usually work in a GP surgery but can also be based in a hospital. They have regular contact with patients, just like the GPs or other doctors they work with.

To become a physician associate you will usually need a bioscience-related first degree or be a registered healthcare professional such as a nurse, allied health professional or midwife to get onto one of the training programmes. Training is usually two years, including many aspects of an undergraduate or postgraduate medical degree. Some providers are developing programmes specifically designed to train physician associates. These are being developed at postgraduate level and offered in collaboration with a small number of universities.

## Examples of jobs you can do as a medical associate professional include:

Physician Associates, Advanced, Critical Care Practitioners (ACCP), Surgical Care Practitioners, Physicians Assistants (anaesthesia).

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

You will need excellent communication skills for clearly explaining diagnoses and treatments to patients. Empathy and being able to understand patients' issues, a caring approach, and the ability to put people at ease are all important skills.

### Problem-solving skills

These are crucial for assessing illness and injury, and deciding the best course of treatment.

### Using initiative and being self-motivated

Physician associates work in busy healthcare environments – you will need to manage your own time and workload.

## Local providers

Within Go Higher West Yorkshire none of our partners currently offer training to become physician associates. Although some offer relevant bioscience-related first degrees, which would be the first step after leaving school or college to becoming a physician associate. At the University of Leeds you can study towards a 3-year full-time degree (BSc (Hons) Medical Sciences).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required). Maths grade B/5 or above, English at grade C/4 or above.
- Post-16 (one of the following is required). A Levels (3 A Levels at Grade AAA or AAB which must include Biology/Human Biology or Chemistry, plus another science or science-related subject). BTEC National Extended Diploma (Overall Distinction, and A Level (A or B grade) in Biology). Access to HE Diploma (Accepted depending on subject content).

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in medical associate professions:

**NHS careers – Medical associate professions**  
[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles)

**The Faculty of Physician Associates (Royal College of Physicians)**  
[www.fparcp.co.uk](http://www.fparcp.co.uk)

**Courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners**  
[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/medical-associate-professions](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/medical-associate-professions)

## Medical associate professions

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare roles, e.g. "physician associate".

**UCAS**  
[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

**National Careers Service**  
[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

**Prospects**  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

.....  
*"Academic ability and potential are really important when applying for Higher Education. Being able to show that you've gained other experiences is also important. It's not all about shadowing nurses and doctors. Being able to demonstrate the transferrable skills you've gained from a Saturday job, volunteering, charity expedition are just as important for success in many healthcare roles."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**  
.....



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# Midwifery

Midwives often describe their job as 'privileged'. The role they have in preparing women for the delivery of new life makes them a vital presence during all stages of pregnancy, labour and the early postnatal period. As well as the satisfaction it brings, the role is demanding and carries a high level of responsibility. Midwives work in all healthcare settings in a variety of ways, providing women and their families with choices and continuity of care.

## How to get there: Maternity support worker

Maternity support workers assist midwives in caring for women and their babies through the vital stages of pregnancy, childbirth and the first few days of birth.

There are no set entry requirements. Employers expect a good standard of numeracy and literacy and may ask for GCSEs or equivalent. They may ask for a qualification in health and social care, nursery nursing or childcare such as CACHE, NNEB, BTEC or NVQ. Employers usually ask for experience of working with children and families. This can be either or paid or voluntary work.

Maternity Support Workers are employed in a range of settings including: the community, post-natal wards, maternity theatres, delivery suites, and midwife led unit.

## Examples of jobs you can do in midwifery include:

Midwife, Maternity Support Worker, Neonatal Nurse, Health Visitor, Newborn Hearing Screener.

### Did you know?

There were 640,370 live births in England and Wales in 2019; most of those took place in a hospital setting.



## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

You will need to be able to work with people from all walks of life so good communication and interpersonal skills will be crucial.

### Problem-solving skills

Maternity support workers need to be flexible and adaptable to deal with unpredictable situations.

### Teamwork

Maternity support workers often work within a wider team, so you should be able to work well with others.

### Valuing diversity and difference

You should be accepting of other people's lifestyles and be able to deal with other people's emotions.

## Local providers

Within Go Higher West Yorkshire some of our partners currently offer healthcare support worker programmes. At Leeds City College you can study towards a 12 to 18 month full-time apprenticeship Assistant Practitioner (Health).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required). Maths and English at grade C/4 or equivalent.



## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in Midwifery:

**NHS careers – Midwifery**  
[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/midwifery](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles/midwifery)

**Royal College of Midwives**  
[www.rcm.org.uk](http://www.rcm.org.uk)

**Nursing and Midwifery Council**  
[www.nmc.org.uk](http://www.nmc.org.uk)

**Courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners**  
[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/midwifery](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/midwifery)

## Midwifery

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare roles, e.g. "midwifery".

**UCAS**  
[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

**National Careers Service**  
[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

**Prospects**  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

*"I feel like midwifery students really stick together and support each other throughout the course. You always receive a lot of support from peers but also from your academic leaders, tutors and support from the staff on placements."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**

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in healthcare





# Nursing

If you want a career that's interesting, rewarding and challenging, nursing will give you plenty of scope to do exactly that. Nurses work with people of all ages and backgrounds in a variety of settings, such as patients' homes, communities and hospitals.

## How to get there: Mental health nursing

Mental health nursing is a demanding but rewarding career choice. Your role would be promoting and supporting a person's recovery and enabling them to have more involvement and control over their condition.

Entry requirements for mental health nursing degrees are set by the individual universities. Typically you will need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C/4 or above plus two A Levels or equivalent qualifications at Level 3. Some universities may ask for three A Levels or equivalent.

## Examples of jobs you can do as a nurse include:

Adult nursing, Children's nursing, Learning disability nursing, Mental health nursing.



## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

Good communication skills to help with dealing with people from different backgrounds are important. Empathy, being able to understand patients' issues, a caring approach, and the ability to put people at ease are all important skills.

### Working under pressure and to deadlines

You will need to be physically fit to be a nurse as you might need to lift patients and move equipment. Nurses need to work well under pressure to deal with the many and varied healthcare situations presented to them.

### Teamwork

Nurses work in a variety of settings and are often required to work in teams to carry out essential activities and roles.

## Local providers

Within Go Higher West Yorkshire a number of our partners currently offer relevant programmes for nursing. At the University of Leeds you can study towards a 3-year full-time degree (BSc (Hons) Adult Nursing).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required). 5 GCSEs grade C/4 or above, including Maths, English Language or English Literature and a Science subject.
- Post-16 (the following is required). A-level: BBB preferably including a science subject (Biology, Human biology, Chemistry, Maths, Physics or Social Sciences, such as Psychology). Not General Studies or Critical thinking.

## Where can nursing take you?

Most people who want to become a nurse train in general adult nursing first. There are then opportunities to specialise in a number of areas after your nursing training:

### Children's nurse

As a children's nurse you would work extensively with children of all ages. Typically you would provide healthcare and support in children's hospitals and clinics.

### Practice nurse

A practice nurse works in a General Practice setting and can be involved in a range of healthcare procedures. You might take samples, remove or replace dressings, and carry out other general health checks on patients.

### District nurse

A district nurse works with patients recovering from treatment at their own home. They typically deal with people with terminal illnesses and the elderly. They provide healthcare support in a mainly community setting.

### Mental health nurse

Mental health nurses specialise in supporting those recovering from mental health conditions. They can administer medications to support people in recovery and they work with patients to support them to lead fuller and more independent lives.

### Learning disability nurse

These nurses assist people with learning difficulties to improve the quality of their lives. They can support the development and implementation of personalised care needs for the patients they work with.

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in Nursing:

### NHS careers – Nursing

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing)

### Royal College of Nursing

[www.rcn.org.uk](http://www.rcn.org.uk)

### Nursing and Midwifery Council

[www.nmc.org.uk](http://www.nmc.org.uk)

### Courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners

[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/nursing](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/nursing)

## Nursing

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare roles, e.g. "adult nursing".

### UCAS

[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

### National Careers Service

[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

### Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

.....  
*"Outside of school I worked as a care assistant both in the community and in a care home. This provided me with some of the essential skills for nursing including empathy, time management and adaptability to challenging situations."*

### Higher Education student in West Yorkshire

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# Pharmacy

Medicines are the most common form of treatment in the NHS and pharmacies are where medicines are stored, prepared and dispensed. Pharmacies can be found in hospitals and the community, in health centres and GP surgeries and in high street shops and supermarkets. Community pharmacies are where patients and members of the public can get their prescribed medication as well as lifestyle advice for better health. Pharmacists offer advice to patients on public health issues, such as giving up smoking and sexual health, and play a part in selecting treatments for patients, prescribing medicines and managing long-term health conditions such as asthma and diabetes.

## How to get there: Pharmacy technician

Pharmacy technicians manage the supply of medicines in a community pharmacy and assist pharmacists with advisory services. In hospitals, they do more specialised work such as manufacturing or preparing complex medicines.

To practise as a pharmacy technician, you have to be registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC). To register, you need to study for an accredited qualification such as: BTEC National Diploma in pharmaceutical science, NVQ/SVQ Level 3 in pharmacy services, or a National Certificate in pharmaceutical science. To apply for a course, you need to be working in a pharmacy. Employers, including the NHS, offer jobs for trainee pharmacy technicians (or dispensing assistants).

Employers usually ask for at least 4 GCSEs at grade C/4 including English, maths and science or equivalent qualifications. It will help your application if you can show that you have an understanding of pharmacy and how it benefits patients. It is a good idea to spend some time with a registered pharmacist to see what the work is like.

## Examples of jobs you can do in pharmacy include:

Pharmacist, Pharmacy Assistant/Medicines Counter Assistant, Pharmacy technician.

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

Good communication skills are required to listen to patients' needs and provide advice and guidance supported by the pharmacist. Empathy, being able to understand patients' issues, a caring approach, and the ability to put people at ease are all important skills.

### Problem-solving skills

Good analytical skills and scientific understanding in order to effectively assist pharmacists.

### Numeracy and IT skills

Advanced numeracy skills to accurately measure medications prior to their supply.

## Local providers

At Bradford College, one of Go Higher West Yorkshire's partners, you can study towards a 2-year part-time programme (BTEC Diploma (Level 3) Pharmaceutical Science).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required). Maths, English and two science subjects at grade C/4 or above. You must be working for a UK registered pharmacist in a pharmacy for a minimum of 14 hours per week to participate on this course.

## What does a Pharmacist do?

Pharmacists are experts in medicines and their use. They also offer health advice to patients on issues such as sexual health and giving up smoking. Pharmacists can work in a number of areas, such as:

### Clinical pharmacist

A clinical pharmacist will usually work in a hospital, clinic or GP surgery with other medical specialists. They will ensure that patients receive the correct medication and that rules and regulations relating to prescriptions are followed.

### Community pharmacist

Community pharmacists provide healthcare advice and dispense or sell medications in a retail pharmacy. Often community pharmacists deliver medication to house-bound patients and visit care homes.

### Industrial pharmacist

An industrial pharmacist helps to develop new drugs and supports their testing and development in order to bring them to market. An industrial pharmacist would also be involved in checking the safety of currently available medical treatments to make sure they meet appropriate quality standards.

### Nuclear pharmacist

The specialised role of a nuclear pharmacist deals with the preparation and distribution of radioactive drugs. These are used extensively in hospitals to treat cancers and to diagnose disorders.

To become a pharmacist you can study towards a 4-year full-time programme (Pharmacy MPharm (Hons)) at the University of Bradford.

Entry requirements for this programme include five GCSEs at grade C/4, and three A Levels (including Chemistry or Biology and one other science subject).



## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in Healthcare science:

### NHS careers – Pharmacy

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy)

### General Pharmaceutical Council

[www.pharmacyregulation.org](http://www.pharmacyregulation.org)

### Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)

[www.rpharms.com](http://www.rpharms.com)

### Courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners

[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/pharmacy](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/pharmacy)

## Pharmacy

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare roles, e.g. "pharmacy technician".

### UCAS

[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

### National Careers Service

[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

### Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

.....  
*"I think I made the right course decision because I looked at the course structures at different universities and how they were suited to my personal preferences, rather than looking at which universities were ranked highest. When selecting a Higher Education course it is really important to read all the information in the prospectus as this will tell you a lot about how the programme will run."*

### Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.

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# Psychological therapies

If you have an interest in how people think and behave and want to use the study of psychology to help people with mental health problems, a career in psychological therapies could be for you. One in four people will suffer from mental health problems at some point in their lives. This can range from mild conditions, such as anxiety, to severe depression or more rare and complex conditions such as bipolar disorder.

## How to get there: Clinical Psychologist

A clinical psychologist deals with a wide range of mental and physical health problems including addiction, anxiety, depression, learning difficulties and relationship issues.

You'll need an BSc or BA honours degree in psychology to become a Graduate Member of the British Psychological Society. This allows you to apply for postgraduate courses in clinical psychology. After your psychology degree, you will need to undertake postgraduate professional training to become a clinical psychologist. You must then register with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) which allows you to practice in the NHS.

## Examples of jobs you can do in psychological therapies include:

Assistant Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Psychologist, Counselling Psychologist, Counsellor, Forensic Psychologist, Health Psychologist, High Intensity Therapist, Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner, Psychotherapist.

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

Clear and effective communication and interpersonal skills are crucial for this role to deal with a diverse range of patients in terms of needs and background.

### Problem-solving skills

These are essential for accurately assessing illness and injury, and diagnosing the best course of treatment.

### Valuing diversity and difference

Care and consideration for others will help you become more effective. Being non-judgemental about others and acknowledging different perspectives are also important.

### Numeracy and IT skills

Good analysis and report-writing skills add value to the work of a clinical psychologist.

## Local providers

Within Go Higher West Yorkshire a number of our partners currently offer psychology degree programmes. At the University of Huddersfield you can study towards a 3-year full-time degree (BSc (Hons) Psychology).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required). Maths, English at grade 4 or above.
- Post-16 (one of the following are required). A Levels at Grade BBB). BTEC National Extended Diploma (DDM). Access to HE Diploma (Pass with 45 Level 3 credits at Merit or above).

## Different types of Psychologist

### Clinical Psychologist

A clinical psychologist aims to reduce the distress and improve the psychological wellbeing of their clients. Using psychological methods and research, they make positive changes to their clients' lives and offer various forms of treatment.

### Educational Psychologist

Educational psychologists support children and young people from birth to 25 years old through the application of psychological theory and research in order to promote their emotional and social wellbeing.

### Forensic Psychologist

Forensic psychologists focus on the assessment and treatment of criminal behaviour. They work with prisoners and offenders, as well as other professionals involved in the judicial and prison systems. They also work with victims of crime.

### Health Psychologists

Health psychologists help patients of all ages and with varying psychological or physical health issues respond to and manage the psychological aspects of their illness. This can include adjusting to a serious illness, such as cancer, lifestyle choices associated with poor diet and lack of exercise, and helping people to give up smoking.

### Sport and exercise psychologist

Sport and exercise psychologists are concerned with the behaviours, mental processes and well-being of individuals, teams and organisations involved in sport and exercise. They typically specialise in either sport or exercise, although some work across both fields.

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in psychological therapies:

### NHS careers – Psychological therapies

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies)

### British Psychological Society

[www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk)

### Courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners

[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/psychological-therapies](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/psychological-therapies)

## Psychological therapies

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare roles, e.g. "clinical psychology".

### UCAS

[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

### National Careers Service

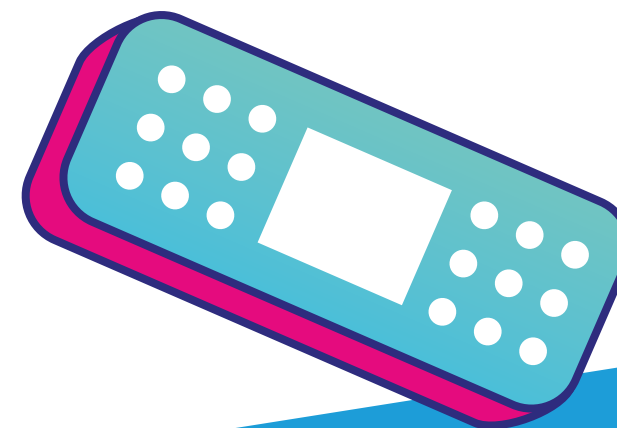
[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

### Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

*"Do not be put off when it comes to the financial side. I applied for student finance which covers the full costs of the degree and some additional support for living costs. Some universities also offer support on top of this through bursaries and scholarships based on financial need and on academic or other (e.g. sporting) merit. You should contact the universities you have received offers from to determine whether they can help you."*

### Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.



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# Public health

Working in public health is about helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from threats to their health. There are all sorts of roles and career opportunities within public health, from entry roles, right up to the most senior level.

## How to get there: Health visitor

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

In order to train as a health visitor, you must first qualify and register as a nurse or midwife. In practice, employers will also require you to have undertaken an approved programme in Specialist Community Public Health Nursing – Health Visiting (SCPHN – HV). This qualification is valuable for all nurses working in a public health role whose decisions can affect entire groups of the population.

## Examples of jobs you can do in public health include:

Health Visitors, School Nurses and other Public Health Nurses, Environmental Health Professionals, Knowledge and Intelligence Professionals, Academics, Managers, Directors, Consultants and Specialists.

*"Before applying for university I undertook various volunteer opportunities such as working in a school for children with disabilities, working in a care home and shadowing healthcare professionals in a hospital setting. This enabled me to gain some experience as well as some essential transferrable skills which are vital for working within the healthcare sector."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire**

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

Good communication and interpersonal skills to help with dealing with people from different backgrounds are important. It is important to have natural compassion and empathy to provide support and understanding for those in need.

### Working under pressure and to deadlines

Health visitors often have many appointments during the working day. You will need to provide a high level of service in a short space of appointment time.

### Numeracy and IT skills

Good technical and computer skills to keep visit records and report to your colleagues.

## Local providers

Within Go Higher West Yorkshire a number of our partners currently offer relevant programmes exploring public health. At Leeds Beckett University you can study towards a 3-year full-time degree (BSc (Hons) Public Health and Society).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required). English and Maths Grade C/4 or above.
- Post-16 (one of the following is required). UCAS Tariff Points: 120 points required. (Minimum 80 from two A Levels or equivalent, excluding General Studies). Access to HE Diploma (Pass overall with a minimum of 120 UCAS tariff points).



## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in Public health:

### NHS careers – Public health

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health-careers](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/public-health-careers)

### Faculty of Public Health

[www.fph.org.uk](http://www.fph.org.uk)

### Courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners

[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/public-health](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/public-health)

## Public health

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare subjects, e.g. "environmental health".

### UCAS

[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

### National Careers Service

[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

### Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

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# Wider healthcare team

Health services rely on people as diverse as painters, caterers, chaplains, healthcare assistants, secretaries and engineers. Members of the wider healthcare team design, construct and maintain healthcare buildings, run the catering, supply the linen, clean the wards, book the appointments and much more. Every one of them plays a vital part in ensuring that patients receive the best possible care.

## How to get there: (Corporate services) communications and public relations

Communications and public relations (PR) staff help NHS organisations engage with patients, their local communities, staff and other interested groups including the media.

Although there is no set entry route, communications and PR staff often have a relevant qualification. This could be in PR, marketing, journalism or communications, often at degree level. Employers may expect experience, which could be paid or voluntary. It may be possible to gain experience in an admin job in a communications department.

## Examples of jobs you can do in the wider healthcare team include:

Administration, Clinical support services, Corporate services, Domestic services, Estates services, Support services.

*"I had always been interested in becoming part of the wonderful NHS and supporting healthcare teams who work every day to improve the lives of other people. Studying towards a relevant degree will help me to achieve this and will help me to develop skills that I'll be able to use throughout my career."*

**Higher Education student in West Yorkshire.**

## Key skills

### Communication and interpersonal skills

Excellent communication skills in order to communicate messages clearly and effectively are important.

### Organisation skills

Being able to work under pressure and to tight deadlines are essential for work in corporate services and PR.

### Negotiation skills

Being able to consider the views of different groups of people are crucial for effective communication in healthcare environments. You will be required to convince others of the best way to present information.

### Numeracy and IT skills

Good analytical skills are required, as is the ability to put together information to clearly present key messages.

## Local providers

Within Go Higher West Yorkshire many of our partners offer programmes of study that would support you in progressing to a job or role in communication or PR. At Leeds Beckett University you can study towards a 3-year full-time degree (BA (Hons) Public Relations and Brand Communications).

## Entry requirements:

- GCSE (all of the following are required). Maths, English at grade 4 or above.
- Post-16 (one of the following is required). UCAS Tariff Points: 112 points required. (Minimum 72 from two A Levels or equivalent, excluding General Studies). Access to HE Diploma (Pass overall with a minimum of 104 UCAS tariff points).

## Want to know more?

Take a look at some of these links for more information about working in the wider healthcare team:

### NHS careers – Wider Healthcare Team

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-Roles/Wider-Healthcare-team](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-Roles/Wider-Healthcare-team)

### Courses and programmes available locally from Go Higher West Yorkshire partners

[www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/wider-health-team](http://www.gohigherwestyorks.ac.uk/healthcare/wider-health-team)

## Wider healthcare team

Higher Education courses and programmes outside of West Yorkshire. Use these sites to search for specific healthcare roles, e.g. "administration".

### UCAS

[digital.ucas.com/search](http://digital.ucas.com/search)

### National Careers Service

[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

### Prospects

[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

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# Healthcare jargon-buster

Here are some of the words and terms we have used in this handbook and some others you might have come across when reading about jobs and roles in healthcare.

## Acute medicine/care

This refers to medicine/care that a patient receives in hospital following an injury, operation or illness. It is different to any care a patient receives for an ongoing health condition from their GP.

## Allied Health Professional

Professionals who provide different types of healthcare who are not doctors, nurses or pharmacists. The description includes a wide range of roles, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, podiatrists and others.

## Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is a work-based training programme which will last a minimum of 12 months. It combines on-the-job and off-the-job learning. Because it's a work-based programme, apprentices earn whilst they learn.

## Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

A group of GP practices in a particular area that work together to plan and design local health services. Each CCG is given a budget from NHS England to spend on a wide range of services that include hospital care, rehabilitation and community-based. Your local CCG should work with the council and local community groups to ensure that the needs of local people are being met.

## Emergency medicine

Healthcare professionals who carry out the immediate assessment and treatment of patients with serious and life-threatening illnesses and injuries are those who work in the area of emergency medicine.

## General Practice

The work of a doctor based in the community who treats patients with minor or chronic illnesses and refers those with serious conditions to a hospital.

## NHS

The National Health Service (NHS) is the publicly funded national healthcare system for England and one of the four National Health Services for each constituent country of the United Kingdom. It is the largest single-payer healthcare system in the world.

## Pathology

Pathology is the study of disease. It is the bridge between science and medicine. It underpins every aspect of patient care, from diagnostic testing and treatment advice to using cutting-edge genetic technologies and preventing disease.

## Primary Care

Healthcare provided in the community for people making an initial approach to a medical practitioner or clinic for advice or treatment.

## Secondary Care

Secondary care simply means being taken care of by someone who has particular expertise in whatever problem a patient is having. It is where most people go when they have a health problem that can't be dealt with in primary care because it needs more specialised knowledge, skill or equipment than the GP has. It is often provided in a hospital. The GP will decide what kind of specialist the patient needs to see and will contact them on the patient's behalf to get them an appointment – this is called a 'referral'.



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