

VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS



**VOCATIONAL ROUTES INTO
HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES**



WHAT IS HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES?

Do you enjoy caring for people?

Do you enjoy working in a team?

Does it make you feel good when you have done something nice?

If so, a job in the health and life sciences sector could be a perfect job for you.

The healthcare and life sciences industry relates to the many different caring professionals who work alongside support staff to treat patients and also the science and technology that contribute to the discovery and development of products for healthcare and wellbeing.

The NHS is the largest employer within this sector but there are also many other healthcare organisations

as well as lots of scientific companies who develop and produce pharmaceuticals and medicines and create advancing technologies.

If you work in health and life sciences, you might be based in a university, in a large research centre or laboratory, in an office, or in a hospital or other healthcare environment.

WHY HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES?

PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS NEED HEALTHCARE AND TECHNOLOGIES WILL ALWAYS NEED TO ADAPT AND CHANGE SO THERE WILL ALWAYS BE JOBS AVAILABLE AND NEW JOBS CREATED.



**1.7 MILLION
PEOPLE**
work for the NHS
today



Out of the 268,000 employees
who work in the Life Science sector
in the UK - **48% WORK IN
BIOPHARMACEUTICALS**
and **52% IN MEDICAL
TECHNOLOGY**



The NHS treats
**ONE MILLION
PATIENTS**
every 24 hours!



There are
OVER 350 CAREERS
available in the NHS with
a role for everyone

WHAT KIND OF JOBS EXIST IN THE HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCE SECTOR?



CATERING ASSISTANT

Works in a hospital kitchen helping to prepare food for patients and staff

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE ASSISTANT

Works in a laboratory processing samples of blood cells or tissues



HEALTHCARE SUPPORT WORKER

Works under the supervision of a healthcare professional to support them and help patients

PORTER

Makes sure crucial goods and items are delivered and makes sure patients are at the right place at the right time to receive treatment



Where these jobs may take me?

There are excellent training and progression opportunities with the healthcare sector and if you do well, you could move up in your current role or move into something new.



IS IT FOR ME?

SEE HOW MANY OF THE SKILLS BELOW YOU ARE GOOD AT:

- Good communication
- Like to work in a team
- Good timekeeping
- Patient
- Reliable
- Happy to work in a busy environment
- Don't mind wearing uniform or safety equipment
- Good coordination. Good with hands
- Caring, calm and reassuring
- Able to follow instructions
- Don't mind working shifts
- Can work under pressure



TYPICAL WORKING CONDITIONS

- If you are working in a hospital, it may be quite a busy environment and you will need to be physically active. You will need to wear a uniform; this is for cleanliness and hygiene but also means that people can easily tell what job you do.
- Shift work is common as hospitals are open all of the time so you will need to be flexible and you may need to work over holidays.
- If working in a laboratory or in the pharmaceutical sector, you will be working in a very clean and sterile environment and you will need to wear a uniform and protective clothing.

HOW TO DEVELOP SKILLS

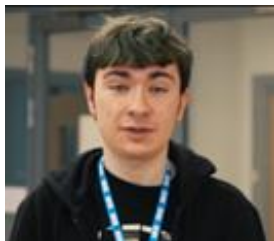
To begin with, employers wouldn't expect you to have experience in many of the jobs in the health and life science sector but if you can show that you have demonstrated some of the skills required for that job, this shows the employer that you may be suited to the role.

Examples:

- "I looked after my grandma when she was sick." This shows that you are caring, calm and can deal with responsibility - good for a job such as a healthcare support worker.
- "I have had a paper round and I had to do this every weekday before school." This shows that you are reliable, good at time keeping and can organise your time appropriately - good for a job like a hospital porter.

CASE STUDY:

PROJECT CHOICE SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP



Cameron

Project Choice

Supported Internship

What did you want to do when you left school?

I've always had a passion for English Literature and English Language, so after I left school, I started a college course at Newcastle College where I studied the subjects and I really enjoyed them. After I finished, I decided I wanted to join Project Choice to get some good work experience so that I'd be prepared for the future.

How long have you been a part of Project Choice?

I'm currently on term three, it's a year long course so I've done two terms, we started last September in 2021

What is the best thing about being on a Project Choice Internship?

It's getting to meet a lot of new people as well as getting a lot of good work experience. When you're on placements you can also develop skills like good communication skills and teamwork so it gets you to build a lot of good skills and you get that experience along with it.

What placements have you had?

My first placement was at a Sense charity shop in Ashington where I did a lot of retail work, like pricing clothes, that was a lot of fun and it gave me a lot of customer service experience. My second placement is at Wansbeck General Hospital where I am an administrative assistant which involves a lot of file management. Both gave us very different experiences.

What have you learnt since starting the internship?

I've learnt a lot about employability and I've also learned what it's like to be in a working environment like at the hospital and the charity shop. The employability lessons have taught me about how to do job applications and that type of stuff as well, which will be really useful going forward.

What is the best thing about working in a hospital?

The best thing is the range of different areas that are available to students on the course, for instance if you're interested in fast paced roles there are a lot of fast paced roles but if you want something calmer and more organised there are the administrative roles as well.

What do you now hope to do in the future?

I'm thinking about studying a psychology course in September after I finish the Project Choice course just to develop my skills even further.

Do you have any advice for someone who is interested in doing something similar to you?

I would say my best advice is to always talk to those around you and ask for a lot of advice if you ever struggle. Bear in mind, if you ever get stuck there is always going to be support, and I think that's the best thing to always remember that you are not alone.



ROUTES INTO HEALTHCARE AND LIFE SCIENCE

In many cases, GCSE-level qualifications will be enough to get you started, but if you do not have these there may be some alternative routes you can take.

There are a large range of Level 2 and 3 apprenticeships available within the NHS. The following Pathway Map (page 9) will help you understand the different levels and options available.

- Level 2 & 3 Apprenticeships in the NHS include:
- Healthcare Science Assistant (Level 2)
- Healthcare Support Worker (Level 2)
- Pharmacy Services Assistant (Level 2)
- Laboratory Technician (Level 3)
- Metrology Technician (Level 3)
- Clinical Coder (Level 3)
- Data Technician (Level 3)

T Levels are available in the following:

- Education and Childcare
- Health
- Healthcare Science

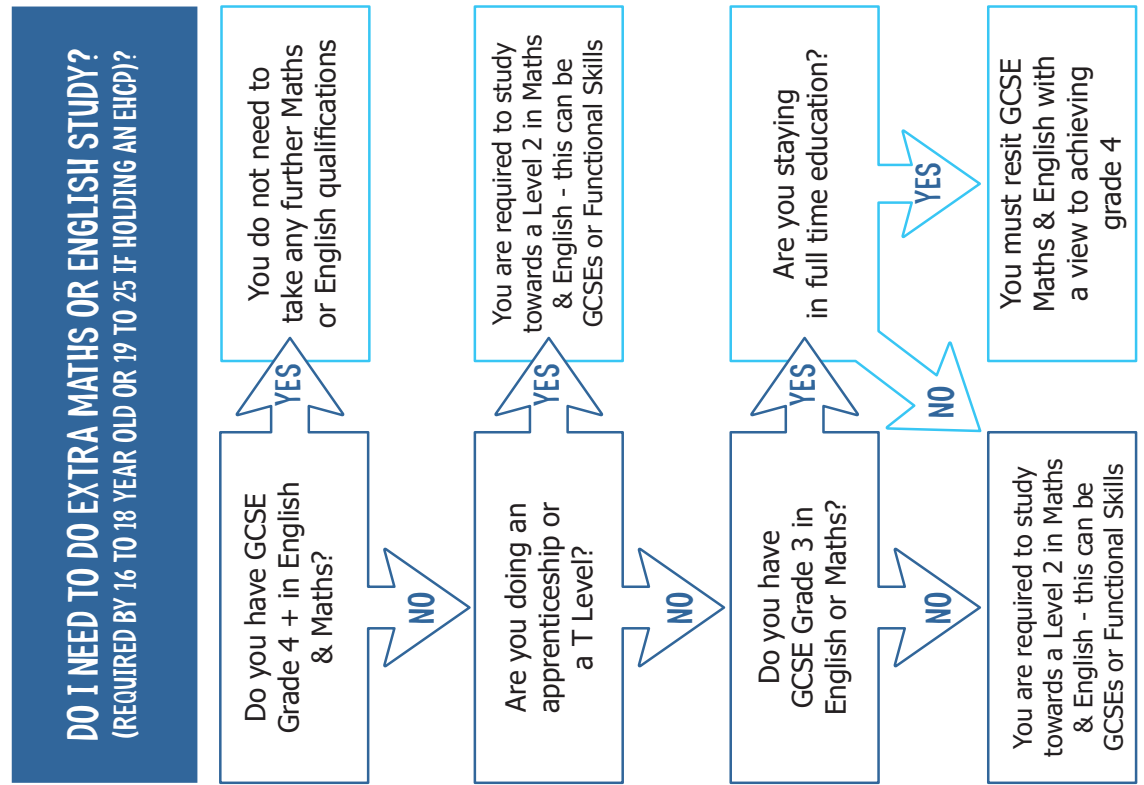
There are also a wide range of vocational qualifications available.

To search for courses go to www.findcourses.co.uk

Project Choice is a specialist College providing tailored educational support, and a supported internship course for young adults aged 16-24 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and/ or Autism.

They partner with NHS healthcare settings, local organisations and private businesses to create supported work environments to provide real work experience.

VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS



LEVEL ONE	LEVEL TWO	LEVEL THREE	LEVEL FOUR +
Functional Skills	GCSEs	BTEC Level 3 / NVQ 3	Higher Apprenticeship
Supported Internships / Study Programmes	Intermediate Apprenticeship	A Levels	Higher Technical Qualifications
Traineeships	BTEC Level 2 / NVQ 2	T Levels	University / Degree
Pre-Apprenticeships	Supported / Inclusive Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	
		Paid Employment - if over 18	

*there maybe some exemptions to this - always check with providers

	Description	Entry Requirements	What it could lead to
Functional Skills	An alternative to GCSEs for maths, English & ICT with a more practical and real life context	None	Apprenticeship Traineeship
Supported Internships / Study Programmes	A structured study programme/ partnership based mainly with an employer	ECHP	Paid employment Supported apprenticeship
Pre-Apprenticeships	A programme of study aimed at exploring different industries and job roles	Up to the training provider / employer	Traineeship
Traineeship	A work focussed study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work	Have little or no work experience and qualifies below Level 3	Apprenticeship Supportive employment
Supported Inclusive Apprenticeships	A real job with training and a salary	ECHP	Paid employment
Apprenticeships	A real job with training and a salary	Employer dependent. Age 16+ Evidence of interest and ability to complete	Higher level or degree apprenticeship University or college Paid Employment
BTECs / NVQs - Technical / Vocational qualifications	Qualifications that teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be in	Course dependent	Apprenticeship University or college Paid employment
T Levels	A technical study programme similar to 3 A levels with an industry placement which takes up 20% of the course	Set by each school/ college	Apprenticeship University or college Paid employment

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about technical and vocational training and support for additional needs:

https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/sites/default/files/2021-05/Your%20Options_FINAL%20VERSION.pdf

OTHER USEFUL LINKS:

Apprenticeships:

<https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>

This includes a link to the Find an Apprenticeship Service, where apprenticeship vacancies are listed and can be applied for. Where an employer is Disability Confident, the logo will display on their vacancies in the service: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Further information is also available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guidetoapprenticeships#history>

For more information on the English and maths flexibilities available for some people with learning disabilities and difficulties, see here: <https://resources.amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/changes-to-english-and-maths-requirements-forapprenticeships/>

For more information on Access to Work and apprenticeships, visit this webpage: <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work>

Traineeships:

www.getingofar.gov.uk/traineeships

www.gov.uk/find-traineeship to search for traineeships near you

www.gov.uk/government/publications/traineeship-providers

Supported internships - <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/downloads/supported-internships/fact-sheet-supportedinternships.htm>

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/project-choice-supported-internships>

Health & Life Science Careers:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/project-choice-supported-internships>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences>



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