

TRAINING ROUTES FOR RESPIRATORY AND SLEEP PHYSIOLOGISTS AND SCIENTISTS



Modernising Scientific Careers (MSC) was a UK wide education and training strategy for the whole of healthcare science, implemented in 2010. The drivers for modernising the training and education arrangements for healthcare science included:

- Rapid changes in science and technology.
- Changing patient demographics.
- The varied and complex academic routes previously available across the healthcare science workforce making career progression challenging and unclear.

The implementation of MSC is decided locally and is based on assessment of local workforce needs. MSC was designed to introduce a new simplified healthcare science career pathway for all stages of the career framework and to develop the training, education and work-placed training requirements to support this career pathway.

Career Stages

Practitioner Training Programme (PTP)

The PTP is an undergraduate training scheme that includes work-based and academic learning. Students undertaking PTP programmes will be based at a HEI and will undertake work-based training through placements at accredited training departments.

Scientific Training Programme (STP)

The STP is a three year programme. It consists of a part-time master's degree and a work-based portfolio with successful graduates eligible to register with HCPC as a Clinical Scientist. Applicants to the STP programme must have a 1st or 2:1 in a pure or applied science subject relevant to the specialism being applied for.

How do I get a post for my department?

Posts are commissioned by employers through Health Education England and can be either:

- Direct entry – Students are allocated to a training centre that has successfully commissioned for an STP post. They will be employed by the service on a fixed term training contract at AFC Band 6.
- In-service – Services with successful commissioned posts will nominate a staff member to undertake the programme. Their post will need to be recognised as a training post provided with the same training provisions.

Recruitment to STP posts (direct entry) is extremely competitive with 24 applicants for every Respiratory/Sleep STP post in 2017. HEE provide salary support at Band 6 and an allocation of £2k per trainee per year to contribute to the costs of training in the workplace. Trainees are provided with 52 days each year of protected time, used flexibly for their academic studies, and excludes time spent at residential sessions at the HEI or other training events.

Higher Specialist Scientific Training Programme (HSST)

The HSST is a five year programme available to registered and experienced Clinical Scientists who wish to train and become eligible to apply for Consultant Clinical Scientist posts. It consists of a professional doctorate (DClinSci) and a work-based portfolio, mapped to the Standards of Proficiency of a Higher Specialist Scientist. (<http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/images/guidance/arp/HigherSpecialistScientistStandardsofProficiencyJul15.pdf>)



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What is the role of a Consultant Clinical Scientist?

Consultant Clinical Scientists work in partnership with their medical colleagues and within multi-professional clinical teams to support clinical scientific practice aimed at quality improvement, innovation and world-class outcomes for patients. They may manage/lead Respiratory and/or Sleep services, undertake specialist clinics and undertake scientific research.

How do I get a post for my department?

Posts are commissioned by employers through Health Education England and can be either:

- Direct entry – post created specifically for the purpose of training
- In-service – through an existing Clinical Scientist post

Commissioned posts attract an educational allowance of £13k payable each year to the employer to support the costs of training. Academic fees are paid directly to the HEI providing the professional doctorate. Salary costs are borne by the employer. Trainees are provided with 52 days each year of protected time, used flexibly for their academic studies, and excludes time spent at residential sessions at the HEI or other training events.

Joanna Shakespeare on behalf of ARTP
August 2018

Useful links:

GOV.UK - An Overview of Modernising Scientific Careers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/an-overview-of-modernising-scientific-careers>

NSHCS - NHS Practitioner Training Programme

<http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/ptp-join/nhs-practitioner-training-programme>

NSHCS - NHS Higher Specialist Scientific Training

<http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/join-the-programme/nhs-higher-specialist-scientific-training>

NSHCS - NHS Scientist Training

<http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/join-programme/nhs-scientist-training-programme>

NHS Employers - Consultant Clinical Scientist Guidance Project

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/your-workforce/recruit/employer-led-recruitment/consultant-clinical-scientist-guidance-project>



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