



350 Careers. One NHS. Your Future.

My name is Liz and I work for the NHS which is Britain's single biggest employer. I am a Healthcare Scientist working in Cardiac Physiology at Harefield Hospital.

On a day to day basis the NHS relies on healthcare science staff to help prevent, diagnose, monitor and treat a wide range of medical conditions and make a real difference to patients' lives. They contribute towards 80% of all clinical decisions made in the NHS, they work directly with patients of all ages from new-born babies to the elderly and are involved in developing some of the most amazing clinical and technological advancements. Healthcare science covers a broad range of different jobs in five broad areas:

- ▶ Cardiovascular, respiratory and sleep sciences (cardiac physiology, respiratory and sleep physiology)
- ▶ Neurosensory sciences (audiology, neurophysiology, ophthalmic and vision science)
- ▶ Life sciences (blood science, infection science, cellular science and genetics science)
- ▶ Medical physics technology (radiotherapy physics, radiation physics, nuclear medicine)
- ▶ Clinical engineering (medical engineering, radiation engineering, renal technology, rehabilitation engineering)

Profile:

As a Cardiac Physiologist I undertake a range of different investigations using advanced technologies and specialist equipment to evaluate the structure and function of the heart and cardiovascular system in patients with known or suspected heart disease. I carry out crucial diagnostic, monitoring and analytical tests, interpret data and provide technical reports to diagnose abnormalities, and to direct and in some cases, provide therapeutic intervention and long-term management and care.

Cardiac Physiology is a dynamic and continually evolving profession which can lead to you becoming involved in management, research and development into newer, more effective treatments to improve patient care in the future and teaching and training of future healthcare professionals.

Websites:

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/> - Find out more about working in the NHS, explore the different roles available and take the careers quiz.

<https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/about/the-healthcare-science-industry/career-framework-for-healthcare-scientists/> - The career framework for a Healthcare Scientist can be found on this website.

<https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/services/accreditation/ptp-academic-programmes/> - Link to UK universities offering accredited PTP/Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Healthcare Science.

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/cardiac-sciences#Clinical%20scientist> - More information about working as a Cardiac Physiologist.

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-cadet-schemes> - Information about apprenticeships within the NHS.

<https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/> - National School of Healthcare Science

<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/> - Health and Care Professions Council

<https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/> - Academy for Healthcare Science

Education Opportunities:

Healthcare Scientists are now trained through NHS approved Universities providing an undergraduate training scheme called the Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) which includes academic learning and workplace based training.

- ▶ Entry requirements include two or three A-levels including science subjects and a good spread of GCSEs at A-C grades
- ▶ Whilst on the programme you will complete a 3 year full time accredited BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science degree.
- ▶ The first and second years of the programme cover a broad range of scientific training and in the third year you will specialise in a field of your choice.
- ▶ NHS Hospital placements for 50+ weeks with competency based practical skills.
- ▶ Once you have graduated from the programme you will be a qualified Healthcare Science Practitioner and you will be eligible for professional registration with the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) or the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

General advice about applying to work within the NHS:

If you are applying for a job in the NHS or for a university course it is important for you to think about how you demonstrate the values of the NHS Constitution in your applications and interviews and how they would apply in your everyday work.

There are six values that all staff – everyone from porters, physiotherapists, nurses, paramedics and gardeners to secretaries, consultants, healthcare scientists and phlebotomists – are expected to demonstrate:

- ▶ **working together for patients.** Patients come first in everything we do.
- ▶ **respect and dignity.** We value every person – whether patient, their families or carers, or staff – as an individual, respect their aspirations and commitments in life, and seek to understand their priorities, needs, abilities and limits.
- ▶ **commitment to quality of care.** We earn the trust placed in us by insisting on quality and striving to get the basics of quality of care – safety, effectiveness and patient experience right every time.
- ▶ **Compassion.** We ensure that compassion is central to the care we provide and respond with humanity and kindness to each person’s pain, distress, anxiety or need.
- ▶ **improving lives.** We strive to improve health and wellbeing and people’s experiences of the NHS.
- ▶ **everyone counts.** We maximise our resources for the benefit of the whole community, and make sure nobody is excluded, discriminated against or left behind.

Additional Information:

It is also important to demonstrate the essential personal qualities that you will need drawing on previous volunteering and work experience.



Queries to:

If you are interested in working as a Healthcare Scientist and would like to contact Liz, please request her contact details from the school (A.Green@parmiters.herts.sch.uk).