

Training pathways

There are a variety of different training pathways available to the healthcare science workforce. Below is a brief summary of each and includes typical entry qualifications and what the individual undertaking them will exit with.

This is to be used as a guide and further investigation into the different options available will be required before making decisions on which pathway to pursue.

It should be noted that there are many areas for cross over now available which individual's might need to use throughout their career.

Apprenticeships

Useful resources:

<https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/programmes/apprenticeships/>

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/>

Healthcare science assistant (level 2)

Healthcare science associate (level 4)

Degree apprenticeship – healthcare science practitioner (level 6), confers HCPC BMS registration as taken as part of PTP program.

Clinical scientist (level 7), not yet active but will confer HCPC clinical scientist registration. Entry requirements will be 2:1/1st degree OR integrated MSc OR 2:2 + higher degree that is relevant

BSHI diploma

Useful resources:

<https://bshi.org.uk/training-and-development/bshi-diploma/>

Entry requirement is an appropriate degree (usually second class honours). Takes a minimum of 2 years to complete.

Completion allows for a candidate to advance to ACS route 1 registration portfolio (min 1 year) which then leads to HCPC Clinical scientist.

Scientist Training program

Useful resources:

<https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/programmes/stp/>

3 year program of work based learning. Confers HCPC Clinical Scientist registration (via AHCS certificate of attainment) and MSc. Entry requirements 2:1/1st degree OR integrated MSc OR 2:2 + higher degree that is relevant.

Institute of Biomedical Scientists (IBMS)

Useful resources:

<https://www.ibms.org/education/>

Certificate of attainment

Aimed at biomedical support staff, Part 1 ends up with a level 2/3 healthcare scientist assistant equivalent and eligibility to enter IBMS as an associate member.

Part 2 ends up with a level 4 healthcare science associate and enter the IBMS as RSCi (registered scientist).

No entry requirements for Part 1, but Part 1 is a pre-requisite for Part 2.

Registration portfolio

Completion confers eligibility for HCPC registration as a BMS. Need to have an accredited or HCPC approved honours degree and complete the certificate of competence.

Specialist qualifications

There is a specialist diploma in H&I available however it has not been updated for some time.

Need to be a HCPC BMS to do this.

Higher & expert qualifications

No higher specialist diploma for H&I, however the certificate of expert practice (6 modules from Ulster University) would be relevant

Association Clinical Scientists (ACS)

Useful resources:

<http://www.assclinsci.org/acsHome.aspx>

HCPC international route

AHCS certificate of attainment (STP program)

AHCS certificate of equivalence (must be equivalent to STP which includes a MSc)

ACS route 1 - BSHI diploma + ACS portfolio (min 3 years)

ACS route 2 – 6 years professional training & portfolio completed

Academy of healthcare science (AHCS)

Useful resources:

<https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/>

AHCS PTP equivalence – adequate period in the role of a healthcare scientist practitioner & equivalent knowledge to BSc

AHCS STP equivalence – No requirement to have an MSc but must be comparable level to STP which includes an MSc

AHCS HSS equivalence. Need to be HCPC registered as clinical scientist, 5 years' experience, no requirement to have a PhD but needs to be comparable level to HSST which includes a doctorate

HSST

Useful resources:

<https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/programmes/hsst/>

5 year workplace-based training program supported by a Doctoral level academic award

Entry requirements:

Direct entry: registration as a clinical scientist, 1st/2:1 BSc + MSc/evidence of writing to this standard. 4 years working in a professional role

Options for those registered as a BMS only:

- Demonstrate ability to work at educational level 7
- HCPC BMS + IBMS spec dip + MSc
- HCPC BMS + IBMS Spec Dip + IBMS HS dip/fellow
- HCPC BMS + IBMS spec dip+ IBMS diploma of expert practice
- 1st/2:1 BSc + MSc

Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath)

Useful resources:

<https://www.rcpath.org/>

<https://www.rcpath.org/uploads/assets/37205f44-6a4a-4761-b08f6ade5c447132/4a4b064f-39c5-468f-a9bc1f3fc49ea058/Histocompatibility-and-Immunogenetics-Regulations-and-Guidelines.pdf>

Part 1 Training must be comprehensive in both theoretical and applied aspects of the field. Part 1 will normally be taken after a minimum of 3 years training in an approved laboratory. It is recommended that the training includes at least 2 years of clinical practice in H&I. Most science graduate candidates will have gained HCPC registration and will have undergone at least 5-6 years of training in pre- and post-registration grades

Part 2 Part 1 is a pre-requisite for Part 2 and candidates will not sit the Part 2 Examination until at least 12 months after passing the Part 1 Examination. For science graduates the Part 2 examination will normally be taken after a minimum of 8 years training following obtaining

the degree entry qualification. HCPC registration (or equivalent qualification in another country) is a mandatory requirement

Applications from Biomedical Scientists will be considered on an individual basis for relevant FRCPATH examinations.