

Qualification level	Description	HCPC job title	Awarding body or organisation					
			Apprenticeship route https://www.instituteofapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/	NSHCS https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/programmes/	IBMS https://www.ibms.org/education/	BSHI http://www.bshi.org.uk/	FRCPath https://www.rcpath.org/	AHCS https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/equivalence
Level 8	PhD			Higher Specialist Scientist Training Programme (HSST)	Can gain entry to HSST if able to demonstrate ability to work at educational level 7**		FRCPath	AHCS HSS Equivalence (leadership qualification likely required)
Level 7	MSc	Clinical Scientist	Clinical Scientist Apprenticeship	Scientist Training Programme (STP)	Options for a level 7 qualification are MSc, and/or ACS route 2 Also available: IBMS Specialist Diploma, IBMS diploma of expert practice	ACS Route 1 (BSHI dip* + ACS portfolio, total 3 years experience)		AHCS STP equivalence
Level 6	BSc	Biomedical Scientist	Degree Apprenticeship HCS Practitioner	Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) BSc degree	IBMS certificate of competence + IBMS/HCPC approved degree	BSHI certificate of competence with PTP equivalence		AHCS PTP equivalence
Level 4	A levels		HCS associate apprenticeship		IBMS certificate of achievement Part I & II			
Level 2	GCSEs		HCS assistant apprenticeship		IBMS certificate of achievement Part I			

This table is to be used alongside the Training Pathways document that provides more detail for each qualification.

*The BSHI diploma whilst being recognised as a formal route to HCPC registration as a clinical scientist by the Academy of Clinical Scientists (ACS), is not currently formally recognised as a level 7 qualification. Eligibility for HCPC registration via the BSHI diploma additionally requires completion of the ACS case book and oral examination. Achievement of HCPC registration as a Clinical Scientist would represent equivalence to a level 7 qualification.

** Requirements for BMS to gain entry to HSST are: