

What is the Higher Specialist Scientist Training Programme?



The Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) is a 5-year funded work-based training programme to provide opportunities for healthcare scientists to train to become eligible to apply for available consultant scientist posts.

What can the programme offer me?

The HSST programme is bespoke. The work-based training is planned by you, in collaboration with your supervisor and employer, to reflect your needs. The design of the HSST programme is underpinned by the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) Standards of Proficiency for Higher Specialist Scientists, which sets the standards that candidates must meet to demonstrate capability to practice at consultant level.

The programme offers plenty of scope for personal development, great career prospects and a wide range of opportunities to use specialist scientific skills and interests for the benefit of patients.

Key features of the programme

A DClinSci academic qualification comprising modules in:

- high level scientific and clinical knowledge
- leadership and professionalism
- research and innovation

A bespoke work-based programme aimed at developing consultant scientist level skills.

What are the requirements of joining the programme?

There are two entry routes to the HSST, either as a HCPC registered Clinical Scientist or as a HCPC registered Biomedical Scientist. Biomedical Scientists must also meet one of the defined demonstrations of level 7 knowledge and practice e.g., a relevant MSc and the IBMS Specialist Diplomas. Visit www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk for further details on the HSST entry requirements.

What specialties are available as training posts?

| **Clinical Bioinformatics** - clinical bioinformatics genomics, clinical bioinformatics health informatics, clinical bioinformatics physical sciences

| **Life Sciences** - analytical toxicology, clinical biochemistry, clinical immunology, clinical and laboratory transfusion, genetics, haematology clinical science, histocompatibility and immunogenetics, microbiology, molecular pathology of acquired disease, molecular pathology of infection, reproductive science, virology

| **Physical Sciences** - clinical biomedical engineering, medical physics (radiotherapy physics and imaging physics), reconstructive science

| **Physiological Sciences** - audiological science, cardiac science, gastrointestinal physiology, neurophysiological science, ophthalmic and vision science, respiratory and sleep science, urodynamic science, vascular science

How can I apply to join the HSST?

For further information about the programme and details on how to apply please visit: www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk