



## Career of the Week

### Clinical scientist

#### What does a clinical scientist do?

Clinical scientists research and develop techniques and equipment to help prevent, diagnose and treat illness.

#### How to become a clinical scientist

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role

#### **University**

You'll need a first or upper second class honours degree in a subject related to the specialist area you want to work in. For example:

- life sciences like biology, genetics or biochemistry
- biomedical science
- medical physics

Once you have your degree, you can apply for the [NHS Scientist Training Programme](#), which will qualify you to work as a clinical scientist.

#### **Entry requirements**

You'll usually need:

5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English, Math's and Science

2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including Maths and Physics

#### Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- knowledge of biology
- thinking and reasoning skills
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to read English
- analytical thinking skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- complex problem-solving skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently



#### Day-to-day tasks

Your duties will depend on your specific role, but you may:

- interpret test results and suggest treatments to doctors
- research, develop and test new methods of diagnosis and treatment
- give doctors advice on buying and using commercial products and equipment
- work directly with patients in audiology or cardiac physiology
- investigate organ abnormalities and find ways of improving a patient's wellbeing
- in embryology - research infertility, including IVF treatment, egg retrieval and assisted reproduction
- in pathology - investigate the cause and progression of illness, or reason for death
- in genetics - study cells to check for inherited diseases
- in hematology - analyze diagnose and monitor blood-based disorders

Average salary (a year)



Typical hours (a week)



You could work

