

HIGHWAY TO HEALTH

Careers advice from
healthcare professionals

Highway To Health

The aim of Highway to Health is to broaden horizons and aspirations of possible future careers in the health sector. In this digital book you will explore Health Careers which were sent in by STEM Ambassadors and Health Professionals from NHS colleagues across the South East of England.

NHS stands for National Health Service which was started on 5 July 1948 with the aim that healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth. At the heart of the NHS there are three core principles: that meets the needs of everyone, it is free at point of delivery and it is based on clinical need, not ability to pay.

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Health Service (NHS) is one of the largest employers in the world, and is the biggest in Europe, with over 1.3 million staff.



FOR THE NHS A TYPICAL DAY INCLUDES:

- over 835,000 people visiting their GP practice or practice nurse
- almost 50,000 people visiting accident and emergency departments
- 49,000 outpatient consultations
- 94,000 people admitted to hospital as an emergency admission
- 36,000 people in hospital for planned treatment

NHS Jobs (2021) Available at:
www.jobs.nhs.uk/about_nhs.html

Careers Within The NHS

There are over 350 roles within the NHS, with each role contributing to making a difference in people's lives every day. Each person that works within the NHS is part of a system that works on a large scale to care for the health of everyone in the community. Below showcases some of the huge variety of roles available:

Accident & Emergency Doctor	Decontamination Sciences Technician	Housekeeper	Orthoptist
Accountant	Dental Nurse	HR Professional	Paediatrician
Adult Nurse	Dentist	Information Analyst	Paramedic
Anatomical Pathology Technologist	Diagnostic Radiographer	IT Help Desk Advisor	Pathologist
Audiologist	Dietitian	IT Support Officer	Personal Assistant
Biomedical Scientist	Director of Finance	Laundry Assistant	Phlebotomist
Cardiac Physiologist	Director of Operations	Learning Disability Nurse	Podiatrist
Chef	District Nurse	Maternity Support Worker	Porter
Children's Nurse	Dramatherapist	Medical Laboratory Assistant	Prosthetist/Orthotist
Clinical Audit Assistant	Electrician	Medical Physicist	Psychiatrist
Clinical Coder	Emergency Medical Dispatcher	Medical Records Clerk	Psychotherapist
Clinical Psychologist	Emergency Services Call Handler	Medical Secretary	Reconstructive Scientist
Clinical Scientist in Embryology	Estates Manager	Mental Health Nurse	Respiratory Physiologist
Clinical Technologist	Forensic Psychologist	Midwife	Senior Property Manager
Communications - PR	Gardener	Network Manager	Specialist Paramedic
Executive	General Practice Doctor	Occupational Therapist	Speech & Language Therapist
Community Pharmacist	Hospital/health Play Specialist	Occupational Therapy Assistant	Surgeon
Counselling Psychologist		Operating Department Practitioner	Systems Analyst

Joanna

Clinical Scientist - Radiation Physicist

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

An architect!

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I work in Medical Physics in a large NHS Trust, across the Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology departments.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

We work with the radiation used in the Hospital, whether that is X-Ray, CT or Nuclear Medicine. We make sure that everything is done safely, following the legislation, and the equipment is working correctly. We investigate any radiation incidents in the hospital and work closely with our clinical colleagues (e.g. radiographers and radiologists) to ensure we use the right amount of radiation to get diagnostic information.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Every day, Nuclear Medicine patients are deliberately injected with radioactive materials to image how their body works!

BEST BIT OF JOB

The variety - I could be administering a radioactive therapy one day, to teaching radiation safety and legislation the next, to quality testing an X-ray machine the day after.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

It is a fast-paced job, and there are shortages in the workforce, so trying to balance your to-do list with the time you have can be difficult.

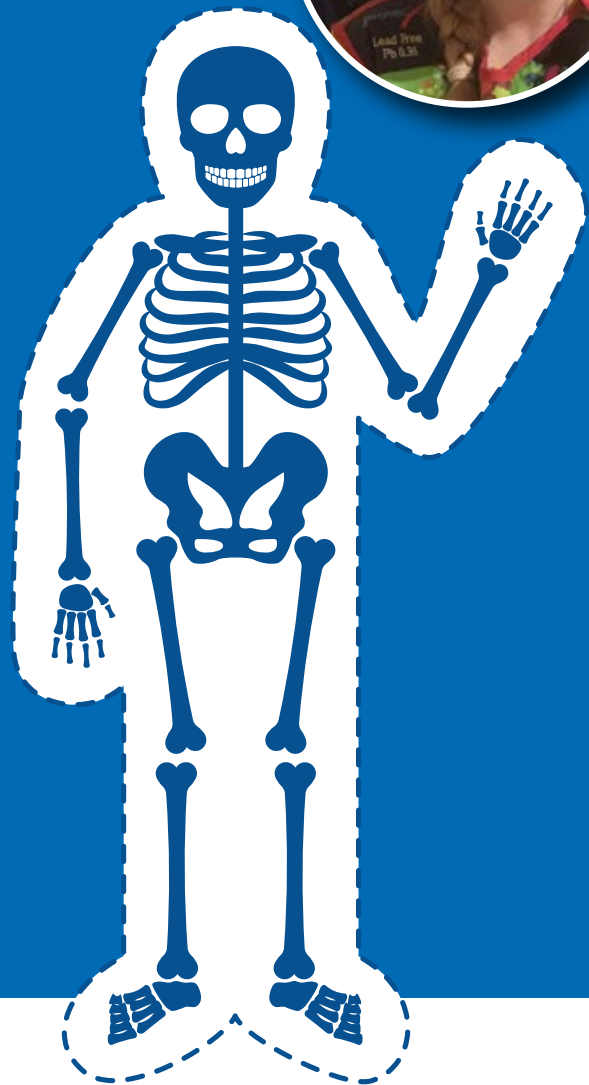
X-RAY

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

Knowledge of physics, biology and chemistry is useful. An Undergraduate Degree in Physics is needed, and there are various training schemes (STP, Route 2) to get a Masters in Medical Physics and become qualified. You need to be good at problem-solving, happy to work collaboratively and a good knowledge of Excel is always good.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

The majority of NHS healthcare is not made up of Doctors and Nurses. There are Engineers, Scientists, Porters, Technologists, Radiographers, Secretaries, Dietitians, Research Assistants ... etc etc etc! A wide range of careers and expertise are needed to provide even basic care.



Kelly

Deputy Consultant Midwife

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I knew I really wanted to work in healthcare, but wasn't sure exactly what I wanted to do. I was considering a career as a Doctor, but had also considered a career in Psychology or Psychiatry. I don't think I considered a career in Midwifery until I was around 18.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I now work as a Midwife, and have done for the last 9 years. I'm really glad I pursued a career in Midwifery because it suits me and my personality so much better! I've spent the last year working as a Deputy Consultant Midwife, which is a training and development post, so I can become a Consultant Midwife in the future.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

A Midwife is the lead healthcare professional for anyone having a baby in the UK. The Midwife is there throughout pregnancy, during labour and birth, and also in the first few weeks of a baby's life. The role of the Midwife covers so many aspects of health, including short-term concerns relating specifically to the pregnancy, as well as long-term health promotion, including giving advice around healthy eating, exercise and smoking.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Midwifery is such a unique healthcare profession because although it is deeply embedded in science, there is also a real art to it as well. Although Midwives have to have really good clinical skills, we also have to learn how to develop relationships with people really quickly and put people at ease. People who come to us are often scared, anxious or in pain, so there's a real skill in helping that person feel comforted and reassured.



BEST BIT OF JOB

You get to be part of somebody's life at a really special and important time. It isn't just about supporting the birth of a baby, since Midwives get to be a part of the birth of a new family.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

We never know how many people are going to be pregnant or in labour at any one time, it's often difficult to plan ahead. Sometimes a hospital or birth centre can be really busy, and other times it's almost empty! Generally it's completely random!

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

Generally most midwifery degrees will require you to have at least 5 GCSEs (including passes in Maths and English, and another one of those being a science) and three A-levels (with one being a science)- Biology or Human Biology are preferable but a combined science is also fine. Midwives are expected to write pretty comprehensive medical notes, so it helps to be able to write to a high standard.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

There are so many components to what makes a person 'healthy'. As well as considering current or historical medical conditions or illnesses, there are so many other factors, including psychological, relational, social, behavioural, financial and lifestyle factors. These all come together to decide whether a person feels healthy or not. As Midwives, we often meet people who want to change their lifestyles so they can be healthier for the sake of their new family, so we get to advise people on all of these factors of health.

Emily

Trainee Clinical Scientist

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I didn't know! I loved learning about the human body and mind, but I had no idea of what career I wanted. I was very interested in working for the NHS because I wanted a job that involved helping people, however I knew I didn't want to be in one of the traditional roles, like a Doctor or Nurse.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I am a Trainee Clinical Scientist in Audiology. I am on the NHS Scientists Training Programme, which is a 3-year course with a mixture of university-based learning towards a Masters Degree, and Workplace Training.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

Patients get referred to Audiology for any problem relating to their ears, mainly hearing loss. We perform a number of tests and investigations, and fit people with hearing aids if appropriate. We also investigate vestibular (balance) issues relating to the inner ear.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

The bones in your middle ear are the smallest bones in your body, all 3 can fit onto a 1p coin!

BEST BIT OF JOB

The privilege of serving people in the community! Seeing people's reaction to new hearing aids, when they can suddenly hear so much of what they were missing, is one of the best parts of my job. Being able to give people access to communication also improves their relationships, and their mental health.



WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Communication with patients is a big one, as nearly all of our patients will be hard of hearing. There is also a large portion of patients who cannot speak English as their first language. Learning how to communicate very concisely, and make use of non-verbal cues like body language, is a big part of the job.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

Skills for my job in Audiology would include great communication, a lot of patience and compassion, IT skills, and scientific abilities. Prior knowledge is not completely necessary, but a good grounding in human biology would be a great start!

To become an audiologist you would need to complete a degree in Audiology, or to become a Clinical Scientist you can go onto the STP programme. Apprenticeships are also available for roles like Audiological Assistants.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

There are so many non-traditional healthcare roles in the NHS and the health sector generally. Healthcare Scientists (including Audiologists) contribute to 80% of diagnoses within the NHS. They cover a wide range of specialisms, including medical physics, genetics, bioinformatics, reproductive sciences and more!



Sharon

Senior Primary Care Workforce Programme Lead, Nurse

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

A Nurse

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I still work as a Nurse, as well as doing my day job, where I support health staff to develop their knowledge and skills for their careers.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

Nurses play an important role in caring and supporting patients. Nurses help to manage physical needs, prevent further illness, and treat health conditions. In order to do this, they need to observe, monitor the patient, and record any relevant information to aid in treatment decision-making. Nurses can work in a variety of settings including hospital wards, outpatient units, patients' homes and clinics.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

As part of my job, every day I get to meet some amazing people.

BEST BIT OF JOB

Helping people is definitely the best part of my job.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Patients dealing with some very difficult circumstances can be a challenge in my job.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

GCSEs in English, Maths and others

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

It is an amazing privilege to work within the Health sector!



Helen

Vascular Access Specialist Practitioner

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

A Nurse

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I work as a Clinical Nurse Specialist.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

Directly caring for patients in an inpatient hospital setting every day.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Every day is different and presents me with new challenges and surprises.

BEST BIT OF JOB

The variety, diversity and ability to make a real difference to patients' healthcare experience every day.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Working within a multidisciplinary team where each individual member of the team has a different focus and agenda. Then being able to work together to provide a high quality and cohesive package of care that is comprehensive and patient-centred.





SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

BSc Nursing, in-depth knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology is important. You would also need excellent fine motor dexterity, communication skills and teamwork.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

It is a very challenging and demanding sector to work within, however it can be equally rewarding and provide you with a real sense of job satisfaction.



Felicity

Senior Clinical Scientist in Microbiology

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

A Scientist

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

My current role is as a Clinical Microbiologist.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I work in a microbiology laboratory within a hospital, where we test different types of patient specimens to diagnose infection.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Every day is different, you never know what problem you will need to solve!

BEST BIT OF JOB

Knowing that there is a patient at the end of every specimen that will benefit from the work that we are doing.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

During the COVID-19 pandemic we had to work quickly to introduce testing for the virus.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

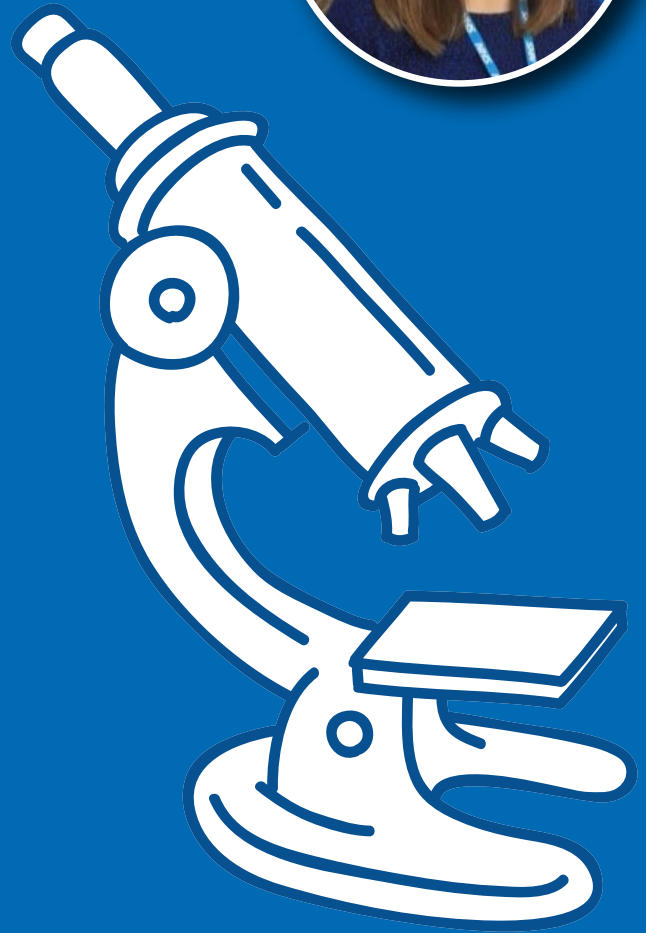
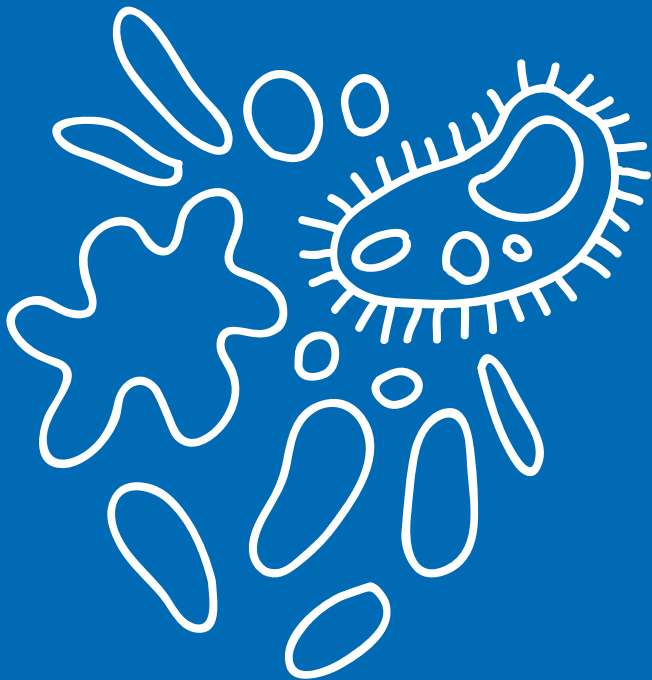
Subjects you will need are Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. Knowledge of biomedical science and microbiology, as well as skills in problem-solving and laboratory practical skills are key to the role.





WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

There are many training routes and opportunities for different healthcare professionals not just the traditional Doctor, Nurse or Midwife.



Louise

Lead Nurse for Stroke, East Kent Hospitals / Clinical Lead for Stroke, Kent and Medway Integrated Stroke Delivery Network.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I wanted to become a teacher!

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I am a Stroke Nurse.



HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I have worked in Stroke Care for nearly 20 years, across a number of roles from Staff Nurse to my current Lead Nurse role. In my Lead Nurse role, I provide nursing leadership to the stroke nursing team, working as part of the wider stroke leadership team to ensure our service runs smoothly and provides a good standard of specialist care to our patients and their families.

I also work as Stroke Clinical Lead for Kent and Medway, supporting regional stroke service transformation. This role provides clinical leadership to development of future services and pathways, to provide consistent and sustainable high quality care to stroke survivors across the county.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Working in Stroke Care is the best job in the world! Fact!



BEST BIT OF JOB

I feel privileged to be in a position to make a difference to stroke survivors and their families, both on a daily basis and also through improving our future services. I am lucky to work alongside truly passionate and committed specialist multidisciplinary teams, who continue to teach me new things every day.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Stroke Care can be physically and emotionally demanding, however this is part of what makes it such a rewarding career.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

The foundation of my role is built upon a nursing degree, and local stroke competencies. However a career in nursing provides life-long learning, through post-registration academic learning; nursing and stroke specific courses; and on the job learning with the multidisciplinary team.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

NHS staff are very special people, both in their levels of passion for their jobs, and commitment to their patients.



Rebecca

Project Manager

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I wasn't really sure but I enjoyed sports so had started to think about Sports Therapy or Physiotherapy.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

Project Manager for the NHS

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I support a range of different projects in Health and Social Care to improve services for patients, their carers and families. These projects can range from creating and setting up new services, to changing how a service operates. I work alongside clinical and administrative colleagues and members of the public.

My role is to oversee the project to ensure it is delivered on time, within budget, problem-solve when issues arise, escalate to senior colleagues and be able to facilitate discussions to ensure we are working towards a common goal.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

In my current role, I get to organise and go to careers fairs, meaning I get to try the fun activities like drilling a melon with a hip replacement drill.

BEST BIT OF JOB

I love being able to make improvements to services that really benefits local people including my own family and friends. I also really enjoy problem-solving and working as part of a team. I get a buzz out of seeing a project through from a good idea to seeing it up and running.



WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

It is not always easy, and sometimes the changes we have to make are very difficult. It is important to show empathy and understand everyone's perspective and be able to show a clear rationale for why we need to make those changes.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

The key skills required for my job are problem-solving, communication skills, being organised and able to build relationships. When I first started, I certainly didn't have all of these skills and would have been too shy to speak over the phone or in a meeting.

My first job was dealing with enquiries and complaints which was mainly telephone-based, so your knowledge and skills will develop over time. I have also had the opportunity to complete various training over the years to support my development, including a project manager qualification.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

It isn't all patient-facing. There are so many rewarding administrative roles and there is a huge chance for career progression. I started doing data entry and have moved onto a number of roles while increasing my responsibility and salary as I go.

Now I have a family and I am able to work part-time and flexibly. I have also worked with some amazing colleagues who I can count as really good friends as part of my job. It is also okay not to know what you want to do when you leave school and for this path to change.

Faisal

Occupational Therapist

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I wanted to be a footballer.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I work as an Occupational Therapist for the NHS.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I work for the NHS. I work in Community Mental Health Services for Older People.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Older people are a delightful client group to work with.

BEST BIT OF JOB

Feeling like you are helping people and making a positive difference in their lives, and working in a lovely team.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Always trying to do the best you can for your patients when time and resources can be limited.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

You need a degree in Occupational Therapy.



WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

The Health sector is full of kind, caring and compassionate people who are passionate about helping others.



Marie

Biomedical scientist

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

Scientist

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

Scientist

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

Biomedical Scientists are at the core of diagnosis, through carrying out testing in the laboratory

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Anecdote: I was deployed during the Ebola epidemic in 2014 and I saw the importance of our job in diagnosis. The local community decided to name our team of biomedical scientists "the knights of the shadow". To them it highlighted the humble yet essential role that is carried out by Biomedical Scientists.

BEST BIT OF JOB

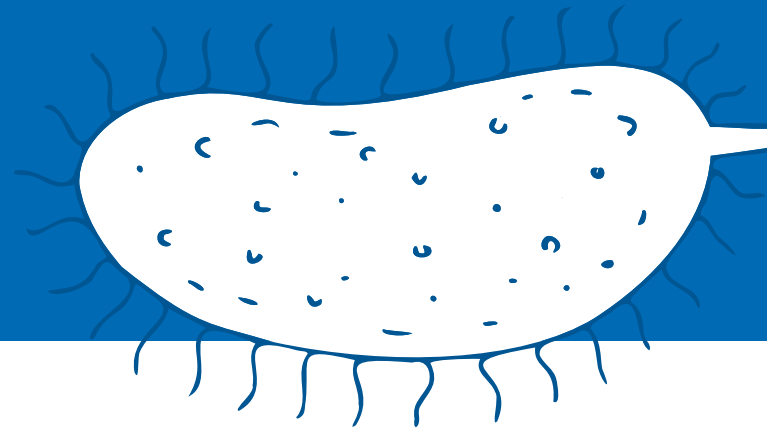
You never get bored. There is always something to do. The best part is knowing that behind each result there is a patient who you are helping to get the best treatment.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

It can be overwhelming and stressful at times.

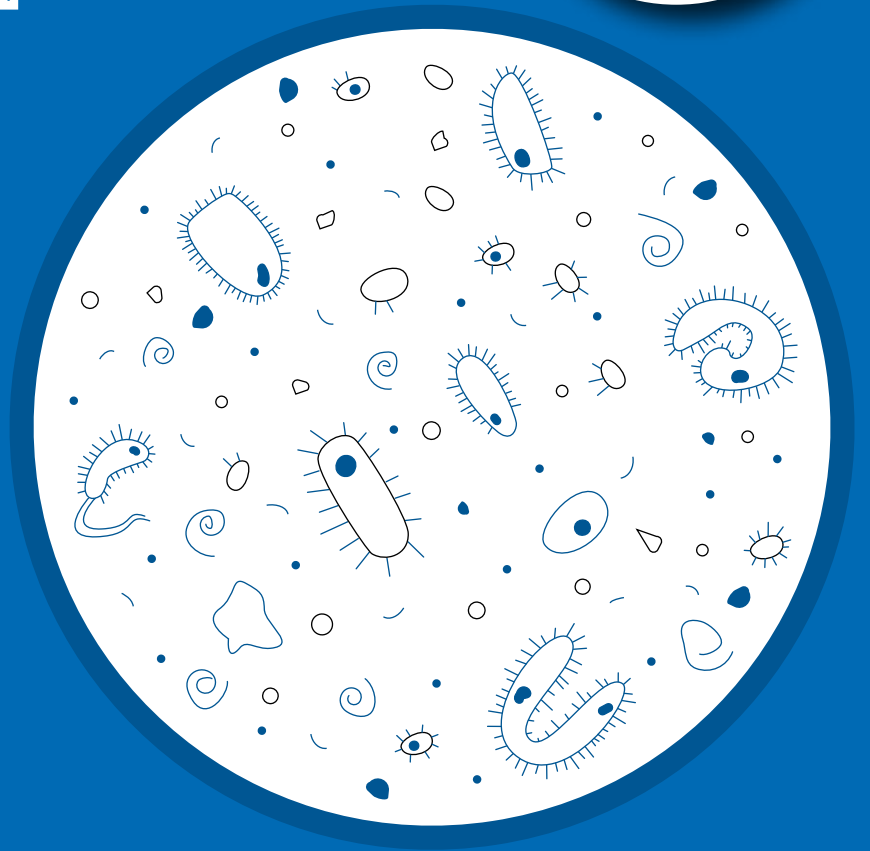
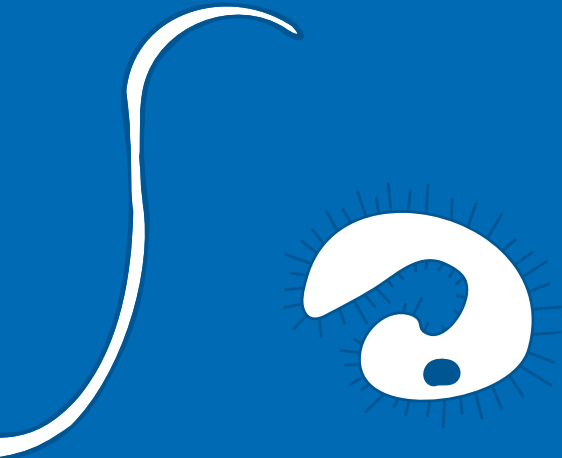
SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

Subjects you will need to study are biomedical sciences and biology. Important skills include organisational skills, teamwork, attention to detail and stress management.



WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

The ins and outs of career progression.



Kirstie

Advanced Practitioner Sonographer

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I wanted to be a Doctor or a Scientist. I loved Science and learning about the human body, as it's so amazing.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

At University I studied Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging and qualified as a Radiographer, which involves using Xrays to image bones. I then undertook further Post Graduate training to become a Sonographer, specialising in Ultrasound. I work in a busy hospital imaging patients to look for illnesses, observing and assessing babies in the womb and diagnosing diseases along with other methods of imaging such as X-Ray, MRI and CT.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

My job is at the front line of health care. Almost every patient that is admitted to hospital is seen in the Imaging Department, and Ultrasound is a huge part of that.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Ultrasound travels at 1540 m/s in human tissue and was first used in submarines in 1917.

BEST BIT OF JOB

Meeting lots of new people, being a detective looking for clues as to why someone is ill and helping people to feel better.



WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Dealing with people when they are unwell and in pain, trying to keep them calm when they are scared

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

You will need to study Science, especially Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Good communication skills and hand-eye co-ordination is important, and takes lots of patience!

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

There are so many jobs involved in healthcare and there really is something for everyone.



Chris

Head of Stroke Services

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

A footballer of course!

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I trained and qualified as a Physiotherapist and am now a Senior Manager of a specialist team, treating patients who have had a stroke.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I originally wanted to be a Sports Physiotherapist working for a football club, but when I did my training I realised that I like working in hospitals helping people to recover after illness or surgery. I specialised in the area of Stroke Rehabilitation and then progressed to become a Manager who oversees the work of lots of different professionals including Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech & Language Therapists, Rehab Assistants and Nurses.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Physiotherapy is so wide that there are so many different areas you can work in, and it's not just about being a Sports Physio!

BEST BIT OF JOB

Working with a wide range of professionals with lots of different skill sets.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

There are lots of challenges every day, including making sure you have enough staff to treat all the patients and also supporting patients to be discharged out of hospital as quickly and safely as possible.



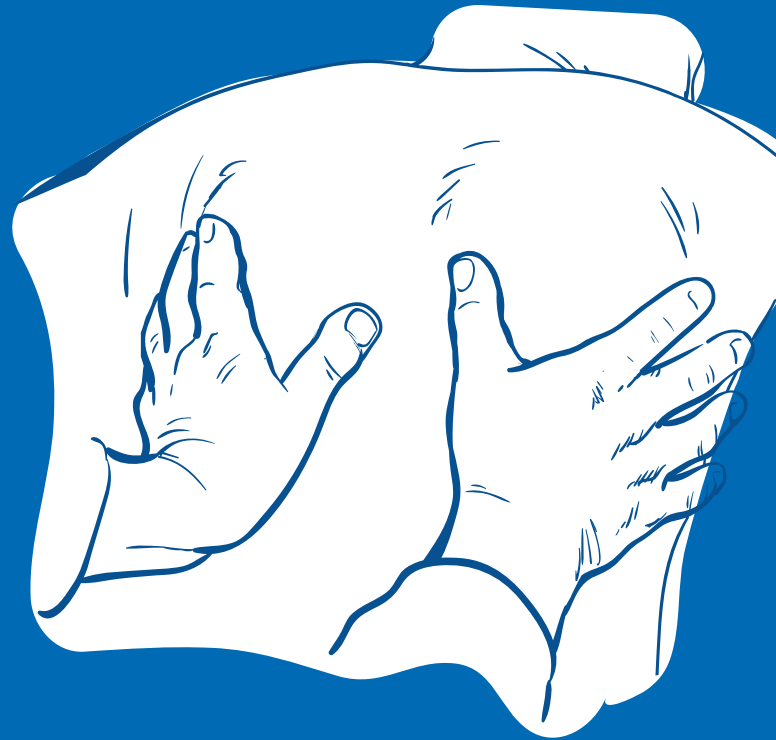
SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

To be a Physiotherapist you need to be interested in the body and how it works and functions, so you need to be into science! You need to be motivated to learn and hardworking.

You will meet lots of new people, patients and their families, so you need to be good with talking to people as well as being a good listener. It also helps if you can have fun and bring a smile to people's faces!

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

There are so many areas you can work in, like hospitals, community rehabilitation centres and clinics, GP surgeries and also in a patient's own home.



Karen

School and College Liaison Coordinator

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

A Nurse

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

Providing information, advice and guidance about careers in the NHS.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I am an employee of an Acute District Hospital Trust. My role is to provide work experience, information, advice and guidance about jobs and careers in the hospital and the wider NHS.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

I get to drive to schools and careers events with a skeleton in the passenger seat of my car!

BEST BIT OF JOB

I get to meet and work with so many people, from primary school pupils and their teachers, secondary school pupils and their teachers and support staff, pre-registration students, doctors, nurses, porters, receptionists, radiographers, MPs, university lecturers and students and too many others to mention everyone!

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

I can't help everyone who asks me to find them a placement or work experience to support their future career ambitions.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

You would need Maths and English at Level 2. In this role, knowledge and skills are more important such as a background working with people from different age ranges, experience working in education, good communication skills, good planning and organisational skills, being able to work as part of a team, good IT skills and the ability to present to a wide range of audiences.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

There are hundreds of different jobs in the NHS which can be done through an apprenticeship. Job roles such as a nursing degree apprenticeship, finance apprentice, dental nurse, paramedic, healthcare scientist, operating department practitioner, maternity support worker, business administrator, IT and informatics assistant and many more. The entry requirements will depend on the type and level of apprenticeship you want to do.

If you have less than 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 you could consider an intermediate level apprenticeship such as a pharmacy services assistant, patient records assistant or business administrator. This is a Level 2 apprenticeship and would be equivalent to achieving GCSEs. You may then wish to use this qualification to enable you to progress to an advanced level apprenticeship.

If you wish to do an advanced level apprenticeship such as a paediatric support worker apprenticeship or health informatics apprenticeship, you will need 4 or 5 GCSEs at Grades 9 - 4 (or equivalent). This is a Level 3 apprenticeship and is equivalent to achieving A-Levels.

To start a higher apprenticeship such as a nursing degree apprenticeship, an operating department practitioner apprenticeship or audiology apprenticeship you will need to meet the entry requirements of the university that will be delivering the academic part of the apprenticeship.

The specific requirements will vary from university to university but will be A-levels or equivalent Level 3 qualifications such as a BTEC Level 3 Diploma or a T-Level qualification. This apprenticeship is equivalent to a full bachelors or masters degree.



Hollie

Audiologist

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

Doctor

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

Audiologists are ear specialists who work with patients' hearing, balance or other ear-related problems.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I identify and assess a patient's hearing through administering and interpreting diagnostic tests. The tests include checking sound level and frequency range, then recommending and providing appropriate treatment.

In addition, I provide ongoing support and aftercare to patients throughout their time within the Audiology Department.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

I can measure brain responses when a person hears a sound.

BEST BIT OF JOB

Ability to help people hear day-to-day.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Communication barriers can be a challenge within my role.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

In terms of skills, verbal communication is really important when working in audiology, as well as being a good listener.

You also need to be understanding and sensitive to the needs of your patients.



WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

It is highly rewarding and your team will become your new family!



Mohammad

Senior Developer Analyst

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

Medical Doctor

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

Health Data Analytics

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I use big data and NLP techniques to analyze large amounts of textual clinical data to identify trends and improve the quality of healthcare through audits, service evaluations and research.

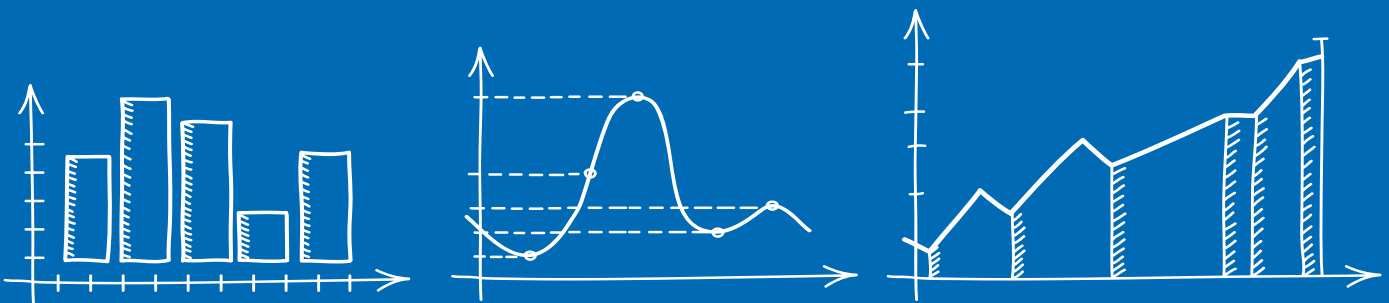
FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

We have over a billion searchable records that can be queried in seconds.

BEST BIT OF JOB

I learn something new every day, this is because I work with many people with a very diverse set of talents, which includes Medical Doctors, Nurses, Pathologists, Project Managers, Clinical Trial Coordinators, ICT staff and Data Scientists.

Also, the process of searching for the data is almost like being a detective. This is a fun experience, which involves out-of-the-box thinking and a degree of trial and error to perfect.





WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

The very nature of free-text clinical documents is that they can have typos, region or specialty-specific abbreviations or at worst, implied meanings. The latter is the hardest to quantify for a computer, which is more suited to process explicit knowledge rather than tacit knowledge. Other problems include not being able to fully analyze data because it was not inputted correctly or not scanned well and training machine learning algorithms to correctly pick out specific diagnoses and procedures.

Patient privacy and information governance is a very big and important challenge that I face, in which I have to be vigilant and ensure that the right person has the right data at the right time.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

Python and SQL programming. Ideally an education background (or at least an interest in) Medicine, Nursing, Biomedical Sciences or similar profession, and a passion to inform and improve healthcare.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

The NHS is in dire need of AI applications to streamline services and improve the quality of clinical care.



Laura

Therapeutic Radiographer

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

An Optometrist!

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I'm a Therapeutic Radiographer in the NHS, treating cancer patients with high-dose radiation, using treatment machines called linear accelerators.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

We treat patients who have cancer anywhere in their body, either alone or alongside other treatments such as chemotherapy.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

I can see 40-50 patients a day so I need to be outgoing and chatty to each person I meet!

BEST BIT OF JOB

It is very rewarding to help people through what can be the most difficult part of their lives and when patients ring the end of treatment bell it is great to congratulate them!

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

It is a very fast-paced environment, often with a lot to think about at once, but working within teams means that we all support each other through the days.



SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

Science subjects are preferred, especially Physics and Biology as that helps with the understanding behind the treatment itself. Being able to talk to lots of people easily and IT skills are also required.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

It can be really fun, even during difficult times like COVID-19, working within teams where everyone gets on and even treating difficult patient cases it makes the days very interesting!



Nicola

Project Support Officer

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I wanted to work as a solicitor, work in a bank or as a personal assistant (PA).

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

Admin and Project Support

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

As a Project Support Officer I help with many projects, such as promoting NHS careers to school and college students, promoting support services and training to staff, and promoting apprenticeships to those thinking about a career in Health or Social Care. I also support staff looking for job progression.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

With over 350 roles in Health and Social Care, I get to explain what these roles are and help students to make their career choices and the staff discount benefits are great too!

BEST BIT OF JOB

I work with a great team, attend and support some great informative webinars, and really feel positive that we are helping to recruit the next generation of Health and Social Care heroes.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

The pandemic has meant that we have had to look at how we promote services to schools, students and staff. Now, a lot of the work we do and events we host are done virtually, which means that we lose that personal feel and there are occasionally WIFI issues!



SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

Computer and IT skills, Project-Working knowledge, English, and Maths. You need to have good people skills, be a team player, attend meetings and events.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

Not all career roles are Clinical. Non-Clinical careers like Administration, IT, Porter and HR roles play an important part in delivering patient services.



Richard

Senior Biomedical Scientist (a scientist trained in biology)

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I wanted to be a hairdresser, but all my hair started to fall out so I had nothing to practice on!

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I work in a hospital in a Histopathology (looking at human tissue with a microscope) laboratory with a white coat, myself and some of my friends look at things that have been removed from people to see if they are healthy or if they have something wrong with them. As an example, we might receive somebody's appendix if they arrived at hospital with appendicitis and it's my job to take a slice of tissue and place it on a glass slide. By looking down a microscope at the piece of appendix we can tell if somebody needs to stay in hospital to have further investigations or can go home.

There are different treatments that our hospital can do to make people well again and, in the laboratory, it's our job to help make a diagnosis and with medicines we can help make people better.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

As a Senior Biomedical Scientist I help to diagnose people who are unwell so that we can find what is wrong with them and their doctors can give them treatment and help they need to make them better.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

I have more hair on my face than I do on my head? perhaps I should turn my head upside down!



BEST BIT OF JOB

I like the fact that everything I do has to be done very carefully and that there are loads of things to do using my hands, I also have to be able to use my brain so that I can work out complex things and be able to write these up as a report for others.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

I love my job as a Biomedical Scientist as I am always busy, I find that I have to be very good at using my hands and I need to be able to concentrate for long periods of time which on occasions can be very tiring. I have to supervise and train staff and sometimes there isn't enough clones of me to be able to do this by myself so I have to get some deputies to help me out too. Working as a team is very important to get things done.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

For me it was important that I had some knowledge of Biology which I studied at GCSE level, this enabled me to work towards my degree in Biomedical Science which was required to help me gain State Registration

as a Biomedical Scientist.

As for all jobs in any sector within STEM you have to be able to concentrate for long periods of time and be patient with learning skills as working in Histology requires loads of hand/eye coordination. It is always great to be eager, want to learn new things and most importantly enjoy the job that you are doing :)

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

There are loads of different people working in the health sector from really young people to much older staff like myself, all staff work from different cultures, religious beliefs, and have different tastes in music and what to watch on the TV or video games. The great thing is that we all work together as a big team family to do our best for the patients we look after within the hospital.

Sheila

Admiral Nurse

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

I did not know what I wanted to be at 15 years old, but I knew I was a good listener. This is a very important skill if you find yourself studying to be a Mental Health Nurse.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

I have worked as a Nurse in the NHS since 1985. Working in the NHS has enabled me to work in lots of different areas of Nursing and also study lots of different ways to help people to get better physically and mentally. I get to improve the quality of life for everyone. It is very rewarding to help people.

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

As an Admiral Nurse, I provide advice and support to families supporting a person who has Dementia. Understanding and developing skills can help families to support a person with Dementia to live independently and improve their quality of life.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

You get to meet lots of interesting people. Everyone has their own unique story to tell about their lives.





BEST BIT OF JOB

Supporting families to be able to access the right Health and Social Care services to assist the person with Dementia to live independently in the community.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

There are not enough Admiral Nurses and there is a great need for families to obtain help to support a person with Dementia. I encourage Student Nurses to spend a day with me to understand my role and consider applying when qualified.

SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

To be a good listener. To advocate for people with Dementia when others are not able to. That is all you need at first. As a Student Nurse, you will learn all the other skills.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

Working in the NHS has enabled me to study and complete two degrees, even though I left school with no qualifications. A flexible working pattern has enabled me to have a family and in between that work in many different Nurse roles, from working as a Hospital and Community Staff Nurse, to Manager posts and as a Specialist Community Nurse.



Srujani

Specialist Biomedical Scientist

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE AT AGE 15?

Anything to do with Healthcare and medicine

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER NOW?

Biomedical sciences

HOW IS YOUR CAREER CONNECTED TO HEALTH?

I get to help in diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of illness for patients

FUN FACT ABOUT YOUR JOB

Quite a few actually, but my favourite ones are working with blood and looking under the microscope.

BEST BIT OF JOB

I get to be part of helping patients find the cause for their illness or to check if their treatment is working.

WHAT JOB CHALLENGES DO YOU FACE?

Unfortunately, like any other job we have some challenges too. Mainly dealing with broken analysers to test samples, Issues with IT systems and staff shortages.



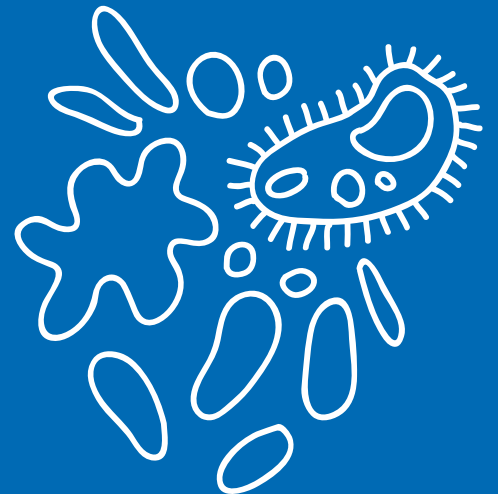
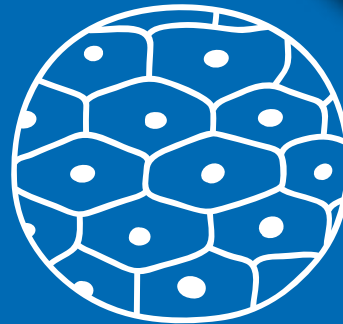


SUBJECTS, KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS NEEDED

Mainly biology with some chemistry and basic IT background. Career options available can be varied depending on the combination of the subjects.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT WORKING IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

Number of possible career options available within the Health sector and range of learning pathways for career development.





thestemhub@canterbury.ac.uk | 01227 43400 Ext 2662

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY | NORTH HOLMES ROAD | CANTERBURY | CT1 1QU

www.thestemhub.org.uk