

RESPIRATORY AND SLEEP PHYSIOLOGY CAREERS

Who are we?

Respiratory and Sleep scientists, also called physiologists, help to diagnose, treat and monitor patients with lung conditions and sleep disorders. They perform a wide range of scientific tests using different technology! There are over 50,000 healthcare scientists within the NHS and together our work contributes to 80% of diagnoses.



What do we do?

We use different equipment and techniques to investigate patients with breathing and sleep conditions. Tests include pulmonary function tests which check lung size, function and efficiency of gas exchange. We also complete exercise testing and tests that look at patients' airways such as bronchial challenge tests. We also set up, analyse and monitor patients being investigated for sleep disorders such as sleep apnoea. We then help patients by initiating treatment.

How to become one of us!

There are many different training routes available to become a qualified respiratory and sleep physiologist. There are undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, apprenticeships and progression within the NHS from technician to qualified level, with the help of on the job training and professional qualifications.

What training do I need to complete?

NHS practitioner training programme (PTP) which is an integrated BSc degree in healthcare science. This includes 50% work place training in the NHS whilst studying. Courses run at Manchester Metropolitan University and Sheffield Hallam University to name a couple! Northern Ireland and Wales follow the same scheme as England with the course being run at Ulster University and Swansea University. In Scotland there is a PTP equivalent degree, BSc in Clinical Physiology, run through Glasgow Caledonian University.

Typically you need GCSEs (grades 9 to 4, A* to C) or Nationals (4 or 5) and A levels/Highers grades A to C including science subjects (biology).

If you are a science graduate you may enter training through the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP). This route includes a salaried training post whilst studying a masters degree in Clinical Science.

Degree Apprenticeship which combines work place learning and studying to obtain a degree in healthcare science. Apprenticeships are often offered to those currently within the NHS and they will be paid the national wage for apprentices. Posts are advertised April/May each year on NHS jobs and the National Apprentice website. You can sign up to both and ask to be alerted when vacancies become available.

The Association for Respiratory Technology & Physiology (ARTP) oversee many national courses and professional qualifications for respiratory physiologists and assistants. The ARTP offer qualifications at different levels which provide those working within the NHS chance to progress from assistant. Look out for assistant technical officer/assistant physiologist jobs!



Visit artp.org.uk/careers

Other Useful Websites

Academy of Health Care Science
www.ahcs.ac.uk

National School of Healthcare Science
nshcs.hee.nhs.uk

NHS Jobs
England and Wales
www.jobs.nhs.uk
Northern Ireland
online.hscni.net/hscjobs
Scotland
www.scot.nhs.uk/nhsscotlandrecruitment



ARTP

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