



Are you interested in finding out more about the Allied Health Professions?

There are fifteen Allied Health Professions, making up a third of the NHS workforce:

- Art Therapists
- Diagnostic Radiographers
- Dietitians
- Dramatherapists
- Music Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Orthoptists
- Osteopaths
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapists
- Podiatrists
- Prosthetists and Orthotists
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Therapeutic Radiographers



Art Therapists use art to help patients with physical, mental or emotional difficulties express themselves and progress with their recovery and overall wellbeing.

To become an Art Therapist, you need to be a graduate. You can then take a postgraduate diploma/Master's programme approved by the Health and Care Professions Council, either full- or part-time. Teachers or psychologists who have a commitment to the visual arts may also be considered. An apprenticeship may be available in your area. You need to be accomplished in art and be able to relate to patients with physical, psychological and emotional challenges.

You can find more information via the British Association of Art Therapists (baat.org.uk) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Diagnostic Radiographers carry out the imaging techniques, such as x-rays, used to help diagnose a range of conditions.

You need a degree in Diagnostic Radiography and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. There are also postgraduate courses for graduates with an appropriate degree.

You need to be confident to work with leading-edge technology and be able to learn new skills. You should be able to build rapport with patients and communicate well with other team members.

You can find more information via the Society of Radiographers (sor.org) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Dietitians translate the science of nutrition into advice about food. They promote good health by working with people with special dietary needs, informing the public and educating health professionals.

You'll need an approved qualification in Dietetics at BSc level, or a first degree in a relevant subject, plus an approved postgraduate qualification in dietetics before registering with the Health and Care Professions Council. An apprenticeship may be available in your area.

You should have an interest in science and food and be able to explain complex issues simply to a wide range of people.

You can find more information via the British Dietetic Association (bda.uk.com) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Dramatherapists use drama to help patients with physical, mental or emotional difficulties express themselves and progress with their recovery and overall wellbeing.

To become a Dramatherapist, you need to be a graduate. You can then take a postgraduate diploma/Master's programme approved by the Health and Care Professions Council, either full- or part-time. Teachers or psychologists who have a commitment to the visual arts may also be considered. An apprenticeship may be available in your area. You need to be accomplished in drama and be able to relate to patients with physical, psychological and emotional challenges.

You can find more information via the British Association of Dramatherapists (badth.org.uk) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Music Therapists use music to help patients with physical, mental or emotional difficulties express themselves and progress with their recovery and overall wellbeing.

To become a Music Therapist, you need to be a graduate. You can then take a postgraduate diploma/Master's programme approved by the Health and Care Professions Council, either full- or part-time. Teachers or psychologists who have a commitment to the visual arts may also be considered. An apprenticeship may be available in your area. You need to be accomplished in music and be able to relate to patients with physical, psychological and emotional challenges.

You can find more information via the British Association for Music Therapy (bamt.org) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Occupational Therapists help children and adults overcome physical, psychological or social problems arising from illness or disability, by concentrating on what they can achieve and enabling them to live as independently as possible.

You will need a BSc in Occupational Therapy and can then apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. Graduates can qualify via a two-year accelerated course. A degree apprenticeship in Occupational Therapy may be available in your area.

You need patience, ingenuity and a creative, practical approach to help people to live full and satisfying lives as independently as possible.

You can find more information via the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (rcot.co.uk) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Operating Department Practitioners are an important part of the operating theatre team, working with surgeons, theatre nurses and anaesthetists to ensure that operations are as safe and effective as possible.

You need an approved degree or higher education diploma in Operating Department Practice and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. A degree apprenticeship in Operating Department Practice may be available in your area.

You will be working in a pressurised atmosphere on intricate and complex procedures and will need to be calm and be able to concentrate for long periods.

You can find more information via the College of Operating Department Practitioners (codp.org.uk) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Orthoptists diagnose and treat visual problems involving eye movement and alignment. They may also screen school children.

You'll need a three or four year full-time university degree (or have completed a two-year graduate entry programme) and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council.

You should be precise and accurate, want to work with people and have the ability to communicate with patients of all ages.

You can find more information via the British and Irish Orthoptic Society (orthoaptics.org.uk) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Osteopaths provide manual therapy, exercise and advice, depending on patients' individual needs. You must be registered with the General Osteopathic Council to be able to practise in the UK and have either an approved BSc or MSc in Osteopathy.

You will need an interest in science and have a patient-centred approach, with a curiosity about how the body works.

You'll be responsible and have integrity and be able to work both independently and with others.

You can find more information via the General Osteopathic Council (osteopathy.org.uk) and the Institute of Osteopathy (iosteopathy.org).



Paramedics are part of accident and emergency ambulance crews, providing pre-hospital care to acutely ill or injured patients.

You need to take a Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)-approved course, either full-time at university (following A-Levels or equivalent) or part-time while a student paramedic with an ambulance trust before registering with the HCPC. A degree apprenticeship in Paramedic Science may also be available in your area.

You'll need a driving licence and to be a confident driver. You will need to be physically fit and mentally able to deal with a high-pressure environment. You must be able to communicate with children and adults, remaining calm in distressing situations.

You can find more information via the College of Paramedics (collegeofparamedics.co.uk) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Physiotherapists help patients regain movement lost through illness, accident or aging.

You'll need a BSc in Physiotherapy leading to registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. There are also postgraduate courses for graduates with an appropriate degree. A degree apprenticeship in Physiotherapy may be available in your area.

You should be tolerant, patient and compassionate with the ability to build a rapport with patients of all ages, their families or carers and other medical or social services staff.

You can find more information via the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists (csp.org.uk) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Podiatrists see patients of all ages to diagnose and treat problems of the lower limb. These include verrucae, sports and dance injuries and circulation problems in patients at risk of amputation, such as those with diabetes.

You need to have a BSc in Podiatry to apply for registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. A Podiatry degree apprenticeship or postgraduate/accelerated course may be available in your area.

You will need the ability to communicate with patients of all ages and be patient, understanding and have a steady hand.

You can find more information via the Royal College of Podiatry (rcpod.org.uk) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Prosthetists provide the best possible artificial replacement for patients missing a limb.

Orthotists provide a range of aids to correct problems or deformities in people's nerves, muscles or bones.

You need a three- or four-year full-time BSc in Prosthetics and Orthotics, followed by registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. A degree apprenticeship or postgraduate/accelerated course may be available in your area. Once registered, you can choose to specialise either as a Prosthetist or an Orthotist.

You'll need creative and technical skills to measure and create limbs that look and feel as natural as possible. You'll also need patience and understanding to work closely with those who may be traumatised.

You can find more information via the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (bapo.com) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Speech and Language Therapists work with people of all ages who have problems with speech, from childhood lisps to older patients following a stroke.

You will need a three- or four-year degree through an accredited university course or a two-year postgraduate course for graduates in an appropriate discipline and then to register with the Health and Care Professions Council. Apprenticeships may be available in your area.

You need to have excellent language, communication and listening skills and good hearing. You will need to be patient, calm and tactful in dealing with patients who may be embarrassed by their condition.

You can find more information via the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT.org) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).



Therapeutic Radiographers are responsible for radiation treatment for cancer patients.

You need a degree in Therapeutic Radiography and registration with the Health and Care Professions Council. There are also postgraduate courses for graduates with an appropriate degree.

You need to be confident to work with leading-edge technology and be able to learn new skills. You should be able to build rapport with patients and communicate well with other team members.

You can find more information via the Society of Radiographers (sor.org) and the Health and Care Professions Council (hcpc-uk.org).

Resources

Visit the NHS Healthcare Careers website to find out more about opportunities for Allied Health Professionals within the NHS and to take the NHS careers quiz:

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/allied-health-professionals

(Click on “Find your role with us” towards the bottom of the page for more information about the different professions.)

Sign up to the online programme to receive information about different NHS careers:

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/registration?career+AHP

The Wow Show has produced a series of short videos with information about the Allied Health Professions:

www.thewowshow.org/health-careers-special/

Information and resources around becoming an AHP and your AHP career prospects:

www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/allied-health-professionals-careers/

Interactive chart with links to resources providing information about AHP careers:

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NHS_AHP_CAREERS_RESOURCES%20151019_0.pdf

Information on the different Allied Health professions, different routes into your career, inspirational stories and a questionnaire to discover the profession that most suits you:

<https://aspiringallies.co.uk/>

Information on how to access financial support to help fund your training at university:

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/financial-support-university>

