

Apprenticeships +

Healthcare Science Assistant

Apprenticeship Level 2



**The
Sheffield
College**

4 Excellent Campuses
1000s of Opportunities
1 Incredible City



Quick Information

New Apprenticeship Standard designed by employers for employers

Sector

Health and Science

Who is it for?

New recruits and existing staff

Start date

Fixed Intakes: September/January/May

Level

Level 2

Duration

Minimum of 12 months, average 15 months

How does it work?

Delivered in your workplace with day release for college, and assessor visits every 10-12 weeks

Content

Tailored pathways in healthcare science

Assessment

Knowledge, skills and practical assessment throughout the programme

Qualification

L2 Healthcare Science Assistant Apprenticeship

Additional qualifications

Pearson BTEC L2 Diploma in Healthcare Science

Review

After 3 years from the implementation date of the this standard

Healthcare Science Assistant

The Healthcare Science Assistant (HCSA) support workforce contributes to safe patient care across all care pathways from conception to end of life in job roles within hospitals, general practice and other settings in the healthcare sector and across all areas of healthcare science ⁽¹⁾.

HCSAs perform a range of low risk, routine technical and scientific procedures usually within one broad area of HCS, following specific protocols and in accordance with health, safety, governance and ethical requirements. HCSAs work using standard operating procedures, initially under direct supervision but increasingly with experience, under indirect supervision.



Key Areas of Study

The apprentice will cover essential knowledge skills and behaviours on their programme as set out below.

Responsibilities and duties of the role

All HCSAs work effectively within a multi-professional team (MPT) within the limits of their competence, but must seek help and support whenever this is required. HCSAs must be aware of the requirements of Good Scientific Practice (GSP), which articulates the standards for the HCS profession and upon which this apprenticeship standard is based⁽²⁾.

Using these professional standards, the HCSA must adhere to employers' policies and protocols to ensure safe and consistent practice within the working environments of HCS. Although not exhaustive, activities undertaken by the HCSA may include: basic life support; preparation of the environment for HCS procedures; production of reliable data, keeping accurate records; stock control of equipment and consumables; inputting and retrieving patient/test specific technical data within required governance processes; performing designated HCS role-specific skills following specified protocols.

Behaviours and values

You will be compassionate; honest; conscientious and committed and will consistently adhere to the standards of GSP which sets out for the profession and the public the standards of behaviour and practice that must be achieved and maintained in the delivery of work activities, the provision of care and personal conduct of the healthcare science workforce appropriate to the role undertaken.

Knowledge

You will KNOW, understand and apply in your scientific, technical and clinical practice:

Professional Practice

Person-centred care

- never discriminate against patients, carers or colleagues
- maintain the highest standards of person centred care, treating every person with compassion, dignity and respect
- promote mental health and well being
- the requirements of the NHS Constitution/GSP for 'person centred care and support'

- equality and diversity legislation, policies and local ways of working
- the importance of probity and the need to be honest in your professional practice
- why it is important to get people actively involved in making choices about their care
- how to involve patients and the public in HCS
- how to promote mental health and well being

Communication and Working with Others

- communicate basic information effectively verbally and in writing to patients, carers and colleagues
- work effectively as part of the HCS team and the MPT
- how to explain technical terms in language a patient or carer or colleague can understand
- how to address barriers to communication and the importance of working well within the multi- professional team (MPT) and the contribution of HCS to it
- where to go for help and support about anything related to your work

Personal and Professional Development

- reflect on your practice; and keep your knowledge and skills up-to-date
- work within the limits of your personal competence
- respond constructively to the outcome of appraisal, feedback and performance review
- reflective behaviours and the benefits of self-reflection in helping maintain and support the quality of patient care
- the role of appraisal and performance review
- how to prepare for and develop an action plan as part of performance review

Health, Safety and Security

- work safely in the HCS work place following safety, and risk management guidelines, taking appropriate action in response to incidents or emergencies
- move/position individuals, equipment etc. safely
- apply a range of techniques for infection prevention and control
- legislation/policies relating to health and safety at work and your responsibilities
- the meaning and implications of 'risk' and 'risk assessment'
- what to do in situations that could cause harm to yourself/ others, e.g. critical incidents
- the principles of safe lifting and handling of people, equipment etc.
- how to handle hazardous materials and substances

Quality

- follow quality procedures to meet the requirements of quality standards relevant to your HCS practice
- participate in technical audit as appropriate

- the role of quality management/improvement and the regulatory environment to maintain and improve HCS services and the quality standards relevant to your role
- the audit cycle and how audit contributes to the maintenance/improvement of services

Technical Scientific Services

- provide general non-technical/technical advice, information, guidance to users of HCS services
- follow specified HCS protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- the scope/range of services within HCS used to investigate/diagnose/treat disease
- the evidence base that underpins your technical practice
- current UK Resuscitation Council guidelines as well as all mandatory training
- how to establish/maintain a safe and effective practice environment based on SOPs

Clinical Care

- take responsibility for the care you provide, including safeguarding, if involved in patient care
- obtain verbal consent in line with protocols when you are directly involved in the delivery of a procedure, including explaining the nature and purpose of the procedure
- protect patient/carers confidentiality when required
- the meaning and importance of 'duty of care' and safeguarding
- the support available in difficult situations or when a complaint is made
- the rights of patients with regard to giving informed consent for treatment when required
- confidentiality of consultation/medical records and the limits of the concept of confidentiality, e.g. where self harm or harm to others may be involved
- key factors influencing dignity/rights/privacy/confidentiality of patients/colleagues, e.g. age/gender/beliefs

Audit/Service Improvement

- offer suggestions for improving services, providing reasons for these
- the importance of delivering high quality service outcomes and continuous improvements to benefit patients, staff and health services, especially through audit

Research and Innovation

- contribute to research and innovation within the boundaries of your clinical and scientific practice as required
- the regulatory framework within which research and innovation is conducted, including research ethics and the implications for your role
- how you can contribute to research and innovation

Leadership

- help create the conditions that assist your team in providing a supportive environment for colleagues
- the healthcare NHS Leadership Model and its relevance to you ⁽³⁾
- why it is important to be aware of your strengths, limitations and behaviours and how that affects your colleagues and any team within which you work.

(1) For list of healthcare science specialisms go to: <http://www.ahcs.ac.uk/about-us/about-healthcare-science/>

(2) The Academy for Healthcare Science's (AHCS) Good Scientific Practice (GSP) is at the core of professional HCS practice across the entirety of the HCS workforce and underpins the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for HCSA apprenticeships.

(3) <http://www.leadershipacademy.nhs.uk/resources/>

Training, Tutoring and Assessment

The whole programme takes a minimum of 12 months to complete, typically 15 months at which point your apprentice can start their end point assessment, by agreement with you and us. The pace at which the apprentice progresses will be driven by you and the apprentice. We will work closely with you to plan and deliver appropriate support and training.

Your apprentice will mainly learn on the job, but training, and one-to-one tutoring are a key part of the new apprenticeship standards, not just assessment, with more time on tutoring as part of the 20% off-the-job training.

We will carry out joint reviews with you at regular intervals to discuss progress. You can use your normal performance management processes to monitor the progress of the apprentice, provide feedback and guide development. Your apprentice will be expected to keep an online portfolio of evidence to track their learning and development throughout the apprenticeship.

End Point Assessment

– Element 1 - Vocational Competence Observation (VCO)

The apprentice will be assessed within the workplace in areas of: Professional practice, clinical care, communication, health, safety and security, quality and technical scientific services.

– Element 2 - Professional Practice Test (PPT)

The apprentice will be assessed against a range of scenarios assessing their knowledge and understanding of: Professional practice, health, safety and security, clinical care, audit/service improvement, and leadership

– Element 3 - Professional Discussion (PD)

All knowledge and skills areas outlined in the standard are assessed in a professional discussion about the apprentices development and achievement over the duration of the programme.

For more information on the assessment for the Healthcare Science Assistant Apprenticeship please see the full assessment plan in the Apprenticeship Standard documentation. We will arrange the End Point Assessment.



Apprentice Entry Requirements

Apprentices require as a minimum, Level 1 English and mathematics before commencing the course, and are required to take the test for the Level 2 prior to taking end point assessment.

Professional Recognition

On completion of the HCSA Apprenticeship individuals will be eligible to apply to join the Academy for HCS (AHCS) accredited register.

More Information

To find out more about the opportunities and financing of apprenticeships and to discuss your particular requirements, please email apprenticeshipsandtraining@sheffcol.ac.uk or call **0114 260 2600** to speak to one of our friendly employer advisors.

Progression Opportunities

Learners who achieve the Level 2 Diploma in Healthcare Science can progress to job roles such as Healthcare Science Associate and the Level 4 Apprenticeship.

The content of the qualification will allow learners to progress to healthcare science level 4 diploma and allow them to become Healthcare Science Associates.

Get In Touch

Email

apprenticeshipsandtraining@sheffcol.ac.uk

Call

0114 260 2600

Twitter

@SheffcolAppsPlus

Facebook

facebook.com/SheffcolAppsPlus

LinkedIn

linkedin.com/company/the-sheffield-college



Why choose The Sheffield College?

As one of the region's largest providers of apprenticeships, The Sheffield College is more than just your local provider; we deliver the dedicated support you need to source, train and get the best out of your apprentice.

We appreciate how difficult and time consuming it can be to recruit suitable staff. That's why we will source, shortlist and prepare candidates before you meet them.

We help you get the best deal by finding the right funding and we handle the paperwork to make the process of arranging an apprenticeship training programme as smooth as possible. Our employer partnership team, apprenticeship tutors and assessment staff are experts, and we invest time and money in training and upskilling them regularly so their knowledge is up-to-date and industry standard.

At The Sheffield College we go above and beyond; we know that every business is different and we help to develop apprentices who will meet the needs of your business.