

Healthcare Science Associate Level 4 Apprenticeship Standard

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Overview



The Healthcare Science Associate supports the work of Healthcare Science Practitioners and Clinical Scientists in performing safe diagnostic, therapeutic and monitoring procedures for patients.

They work within hospitals, general practice and other settings in the healthcare sector.

They perform a wide range of routine technical and scientific procedures, with minimal supervision.

Duration:

24 months + 3 months for the End Point Assessment

Entry Guidelines:

English and maths at GCSE grade A*-C/4-9 or Functional Skills level 2 and a relevant healthcare / science qualification at level 3.

NB All apprenticeship standards require apprentices to provide evidence of their English and maths grades before they can progress through the Gateway to their End Point Assessment and achieve the apprenticeship qualification.



Healthcare Science Associate Level 4 Course Overview

Pre-programme	On Programme Learning covering Skills, Knowledge & Behaviours	Gateway	Independent End Point Assessment
Initial assessment English & Maths	Diploma in Healthcare Science Level 4 (day release, Twelve Quays Campus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Science Level 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational Competence Observation
Skills Scan	Vocational competence log / e-portfolio Workplace problem solving project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational competence evaluation log 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Practice Test
Induction with Trainer Assessor	On programme Assessments & Reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-programme learning assessments 6-8 weekly sessions with Trainer Assessor 8-10 week Progress Reviews with apprentice and employer 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional Discussion

Course Details

This apprenticeship programme is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to be an effective Healthcare Science Associate.

The Knowledge element of the course will include:

- Equality and diversity legislation
- The principles underpinning the promotion of mental health and well-being
- Active listening, observation and the use of appropriate language and feedback
- Mentoring practice
- Appraisal and performance review
- Legislation/policies relating to health & safety at work
- Infection control practice
- Underpinning clinical science
- Genomics, clinical bioinformatics eg anatomy, physiology, pathology, pharmacology
- 'Duty of care' and safeguarding
- Key factors influencing dignity/rights/privacy/confidentiality of patients and colleagues.

The Occupational Skills element of the course will include:

- **Professional Practice and Person-centred Care**
 - a. to maintain the highest standards of person-centred care, treating every person with compassion, dignity and respect.
- **Personal and Professional Development**
 - a. to critically reflect on technical/non-technical practice
- **Health, Safety and Security**
 - a. to maintain a safe and healthy working environment
- **Quality**
 - a. to lead quality management technical audit processes
- **Technical Scientific Services**
 - a. to make reasoned decisions to initiate/continue/modify or cease using techniques/procedures
 - b. to analyse/interpret/record/present accurately Healthcare Science technical data.
- **Clinical Care**
 - a. To deliver high quality technical and clinical procedures in the investigation/management of patients.
- **Audit/Service Improvement**
 - a. To participate in audit and/or service improvement programmes.
- **Research & Innovation**
 - a. To undertake appropriate audit/research/innovation activities
- **Leadership**
 - a. To plan/assess the work of a team and individuals within it.

Skills & Behaviours



The **Skills & Behaviours** element of the apprenticeship is to be completed with support from a Trainer Assessor making periodic visits to the apprentice in the workplace. The Trainer Assessor will support and guide the apprentice to ensure that they are developing the skills and competency required in accordance with the apprenticeship standard, including:

Demonstrating reliability, integrity and respect for confidentiality; handling and responding positively to change and taking responsibility for personal development. The apprentice will use the e-portfolio system called OneFile to build a portfolio of work/vocational competence log throughout the development stage, which is a key component of End Point Assessment and demonstrates their occupational competency.

Gateway

To pass through the Gateway, the apprentice must have achieved the following:

1. **Diploma in Healthcare Science Level 4**
2. **English and maths Level 2 qualification**
3. **Vocational competence log / e-portfolio**

A summary record of on-programme vocational competence, signed off by a technical expert nominated by the apprentice's employer, must be recorded in a log or e-portfolio.

End Point Assessment

The End Point Assessment must only start once the employer is satisfied that the apprentice is consistently working at or above the level set out in the occupational standard, that means they have achieved occupational competence.

End Point Assessment (EPA) normally takes 3 months to complete and consists of:

1 Vocational Competence Observation

The apprentice will be observed in three work-based tasks in their workplace that form part of their routine practice as a Healthcare Science Associate. The observation will cover the knowledge, skills and behaviour to support:

- Professional Practice
- Communication
- Health, Safety and Security
- Quality
- Technical Scientific Services
- Clinical Care

2 Professional Practice Test

Under exam conditions, the apprentice will review 8 brief workplace-based scenarios and describe the actions they would take in response to each scenario. This will be followed by a discussion with the end point assessor who will assess how they approach:

- Professional Practice
- Health, Safety and Security
- Clinical Care
- Audit/Service Improvement
- Leadership

3. Professional Discussion

The purpose of the professional discussion is to determine the extent to which the apprentice understands the requirements of his/her role as defined by the apprenticeship standard and to explore them through discussion.

The portfolio of evidence / vocational competence log (that has been completed by the apprentice during their programme) will be used as a source of evidence by which apprentices can exemplify their responses to questions asked by the assessor. The portfolio itself will not be assessed, but will be used by the assessor to prepare the questioning for the professional discussion and by the apprentice to exemplify their responses to the questions.

Grading & Progression

Apprenticeship grading

The available grades for this apprenticeship programme are **Fail, Pass and Distinction.**

Where can apprentices progress to?

The apprentice may choose to progress on to a more senior role in their organisation, or to a higher level course at university.





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