

Step into a career in Ophthalmic and Vision Science



Level 2

Programme: Level 2 Healthcare Science Assistant Apprenticeship
Award: Level 2 Diploma in Healthcare Science
Funded by: Government Apprenticeship levy
Provided by: Education providers



Level 2

Programme: Level 2 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma
Award: Level 2 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma
Funded by: Not funded
Provided by: The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology



Level 6

Programme: Practitioner Training Programme (PTP) Healthcare Science (Ophthalmic Imaging)
Award: BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science & eligibility to join the AHCS voluntary register for Healthcare Science Practitioners
Funded by: Student loan & clinical placement tariff*
Provided by: Universities



Level 8

Programme: Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) in Ophthalmic and Vision Sciences**
Award: CCHSST, DClinSci & eligibility to join the AHCS Higher Specialist Scientist Register
Funded by: NHS England
Provided by: NHS England & Universities



Level 4

Programme: Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeship
Award: Level 4 Diploma in Healthcare Science
Funded by: Government Apprenticeship levy
Provided by: Education providers



Level 4

Programme: Level 4 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma
Award: Level 4 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma
Funded by: Not funded
Provided by: The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology



Level 5

Programme: Level 5 Diploma in Ophthalmic and Vision Science
Award: Level 5 Diploma in Ophthalmic and Vision Science
Funded by: Not funded
Provided by: The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology



Level 7

Programme: Scientist Training Programme (STP) in Ophthalmic and Vision Science
Award: CCSTP, MSc Clinical Science & eligibility to join the HCPC register as a Clinical Scientist
Funded by: NHS England
Provided by: NHS England & Universities

Level 2 Healthcare Science Assistant Apprenticeship providers

- The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology
- Barnsley College
- City College Plymouth
- CSR Scientific Training Ltd
- Dudley College of Technology
- Dynamic Training UK Ltd
- Essex County Council
- Halesowen College
- Heart of Yorkshire Education Group
- HTP Apprenticeship College Ltd
- JAG Training Ltd
- Kendal College
- Luminate Education Group
- Macclesfield College
- Middlesex University
- The Sheffield College
- Southport College
- Steadfast Training Ltd
- Wirral Metropolitan College

Level 2 Healthcare Science Assistant Apprenticeship eligibility

See education provider for specific requirements - [Healthcare science assistant \(level 2\) - apprenticeship training course \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

Level 2 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma provider

- The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology

Level 2 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma eligibility

See education provider for specific requirements [Level 2 BTEC Diploma – AHPO](#)

Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeship providers

- The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology
- City College Norwich
- Coventry University
- CSR Scientific Training Ltd
- CU Apprenticeships (Better Futures) Ltd
- Dudley College of Technology
- Dynamic Training UK Ltd
- East Durham College
- Halesowen College
- Heart of Yorkshire Education Group
- Kendal College
- Luminate Education Group
- Macclesfield College
- Middlesex University
- The Sheffield College
- Steadfast Training Ltd
- Wirral Metropolitan College

Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeship eligibility

See education provider for specific requirements [Training providers for Healthcare science associate \(level 4\) \(education.gov.uk\)](#)

Level 4 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma provider

- The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology

Level 4 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma eligibility

See education provider for specific requirements [Level 4 BTEC Diploma - AHPO](#)

Level 5 Diploma in Ophthalmic and Vision Science provider

- The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology

Level 5 Diploma in Ophthalmic and Vision Science eligibility

See education provider for specific requirements [AHPO Level 5 Diploma - AHPO](#)

Level 6 PTP BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Ophthalmic Imaging) providers

- University of Gloucestershire

Level 6 PTP BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science (Ophthalmic Imaging) eligibility

A levels or equivalent, see university website for specific requirements.

Level 7 STP MSc Clinical Science (Ophthalmic and Vision Science) providers

- Aston University
- Manchester Academy for Healthcare Scientist Education (MAHSE)

Level 7 STP Ophthalmic and Vision Science eligibility

Undergraduate honours degree or an integrated Master's degree (1st or 2:1), in a pure or applied science subject relevant to the specialty for which you are applying OR higher degree in a relevant subject & undergraduate honours degree (2:2) in any subject.

Level 8 HSST DClin Sci (Ophthalmic and Vision Sciences) provider

- Aston University

Level 8 HSST Ophthalmic and Vision Sciences eligibility

HCPC registered Clinical Scientist with at least one-year post-registration experience.

Programme duration

- Level 2 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma
 - 1-year programme
- Level 4 BTEC Healthcare Science Diploma
 - 2-year programme
- Level 5 Diploma in Ophthalmic and Vision Science
 - 1.5-2-year programme
- Practitioner Training Programme (PTP)
 - 3-year programme
- Scientist Training Programme (STP)
 - 3-year programme
- Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST)
 - 5-year programme

Education levels

1. GCSE grades 3-1; L1 NVQ etc.
2. GCSE grades 9-4; L2 NVQ etc.
3. A level; AS level; L3 NVQ etc.
4. HNC; L4 NVQ
5. Foundation (Undergraduate)
6. Bachelors (Graduate)
7. Masters (Postgraduate)
8. Doctorate (Consultant)

Professional Bodies

- AHPO – The Association of Health Professions In Ophthalmology

Registration

- HCPC – Clinical Scientist (statutory)
- AHCS – Clinical Physiologist (voluntary)
- AHCS – Healthcare Science Practitioner (voluntary)

Equivalence

- AHCS - <https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/equivalence/>
- ACS - <https://assclinsci.org/applicants/my-route-to-registration/>

Useful websites

- AHCS - [The Academy For Healthcare Science – AHCS](#)
- AHPO - [AHPO - The Association of Health Professions in Ophthalmology](#)
- NSHCS - <https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/>
- RCOphth - [The Royal College of Ophthalmologists | \(rcophth.ac.uk\)](#)

Further information

- AHCS – Academy of Healthcare Science
- AHPO – The Association of Healthcare Professions in Ophthalmology
- HCPC – Health & Care Professions Council
- NSHCS – National School of Healthcare Science
- RCOphth – The Royal College of Ophthalmologists

*Clinical placement tariff attracted for hosting students. See UK Government website for more information - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/healthcare-education-and-training-tariff-2022-to-2023>

**The following Ophthalmic and Vision Sciences HSST sub-specialties are available: Electrophysiology; Imaging; Visual Perception and Psychophysics)