

Graduate Entry to Healthcare Science, Allied Medical and Medical Associate Professions -

**Audiology, Dietitian, Nutritionist,
Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy,
Radiography, Speech and Language
Therapy and Physician Associate**

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Introduction

This booklet covers some of the most popular **postgraduate** entry routes into health care professions. Most of the clinical professions covered in this booklet are available as accelerated or shortened pre-registration courses. Full details of accelerated entry professions can be found here www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/graduate-training-opportunities/accelerated-programmes

Typically, these courses allow graduates of other subject disciplines to undertake approved pre-registration training in two years instead of three or four. This is because accreditation for prior experiential learning (APEL) can be given by the university. This booklet covers:

Healthcare Science

- Audiology

Allied Medical Professions:

- Diagnostic and therapeutic radiography
- Dietetics
- Nutritionist (Not accelerated)
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Speech and language therapy

Medical Associate Profession:

- Physician Associate (Not accelerated)

For accelerated nursing and medical degrees, please see the separate Starting Point Booklets in this series: Graduate entry into Medicine and Graduate entry into Nursing and Midwifery

www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/services/downloads/startingpointseriesofhandouts/

For more information about the current job market and career prospects for the full range of allied medical professions, check out the NHS Health Careers website

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/studying-be-allied-health-professional

Detailed information and job profiles covering all careers in the health sector is available via:

- Prospects website:
www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/healthcare
- NHS Careers
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>
- National Careers Service Job Profiles – medicine and nursing:
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/medicine-and-nursing>

General resources

We have a number of publications in the Careers Service Library located in the Atrium, University Place.

“Health Care” section and online at

www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/whichcareer/health

- The University also promotes numerous volunteering opportunities that relate to health care via the Volunteer Hub
www.volunteers.manchester.ac.uk/
- A great site for national and local volunteering opportunities
www.do-it.org.uk
- Graduate training opportunities within health care
www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/graduate-training-opportunities
- NHS jobs
www.jobs.nhs.uk

- Step into the NHS – advice on work experience in the NHS (*aimed at 14-19 year olds but useful contacts and advice)
www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk
- NHS Choices for a list of local services
www.nhs.uk/Service-Search

Healthcare Science

Audiology

Audiology is a rapidly developing field, and the need for audiological services is clear. A national study of hearing showed that approximately 16% of the population have a significant hearing loss, indicating that working in this field is an important area of the NHS.

Healthcare science staff in audiology work in a variety of settings, including hospitals and community settings (including the independent sector), where they assess and treat patients. With appropriate further training and development, and depending on their employer, they may reach consultant level. Many operate open referral clinics and may be the only point of contact for the patient.

The different roles within audiology that you can consider at graduate entry are health care scientist audiologist, hearing aid audiologist and clinical scientist.

Graduate entry

To work as an audiological scientist you must complete a first degree in a relevant science related subject, followed either by the completion of the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP) www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/graduate-training-opportunities/nhs-scientist-training-programme or by a university-run pre-registration Masters course in an

audiology subject followed by further clinical training. Both routes lead towards registration as an audiological scientist or clinical scientist (audiology)

Scientist Training Programme

The STP is a 3 year graduate-entry programme leading to more senior scientist roles. You will be employed by an NHS trust for the duration of your training. Training leads to a Master's degree and a certificate of workplace-based training following one of the themed pathways (neurosensory sciences). To be eligible for the programme you must have at least a 2:1 degree in a relevant subject. The most commonly accepted degrees are physiology, pure or applied physics, engineering, biology or human biology. The following degree subjects may also increase your chances: chemistry, nursing, speech science/therapy, biochemistry, biomedical science, psychology and medicine.

Recruitment for the September intake of the STP usually begins in January with a closing date of mid-February. See www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/join-programme/nhs-scientist-training-programme for detailed information.

Masters level entry

The alternative route is to complete a pre-registration MSc in Audiology or Audiological Science, accredited by the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) Once you have completed an MSc, you will need to undertake a further clinical training programme called the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) to achieve clinical competency and eligibility for registration as a qualified audiologist or hearing aid dispenser practicing in the UK . Currently masters courses are run at:

Queen Margaret University
University College London
University of Manchester

University of Southampton

See the BAA website for a list of all course providers
www.baaudiology.org/links/degrees.

You may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate masters loan of up to £10,609 for the MSc component. See FindAMasters website for more information www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/masters-loans.aspx

Work experience

Pre-entry experience is not necessary, but work experience in a related area can provide a useful background for studying audiology, for example working with children or the elderly. Completing the British Sign Language (BSL) Level 1 course gives an insight into deaf culture and deaf issues. For all candidates, evidence of research experience (e.g. in the form of a higher degree or equivalent evidence of scientific and academic capability) is considered desirable.

Additional information sources

- NHS Health Careers Audiology
www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/physiological-sciences/audiology
- The National School of Healthcare Science
www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/
- The British Academy of Audiology
www.baaudiology.org/careers/what-audiology/#.Ww6Tme4vyUI
- Prospects Occupational Profile Audiological Scientist
www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/healthcare-scientist-audiology
- The National Careers Service Job Profile Audiologist
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/audiologist>
- For volunteering opportunities see:
- The National Deaf Children's Society see
www.ndcs.org.uk/help_us/volunteering_at_ndcs/index.html

- Action on Hearing Loss www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/you-can-help/volunteer-for-us/

Allied Medical Professions

The first step to becoming an AHP is to take a degree or postgraduate course approved by the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC). You can search for HCPC-approved courses using the NHS course finder www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder

Financial Support for Allied Medical Professions Postgraduate students

With effect from August 2018 onwards, all eligible new Postgraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession students will have access to standard student loans to cover tuition fees of up to £9,250 per year and to support living costs. Students who have already taken out a student loan will still be able to access another loan to study these courses.

Courses affected:

- Nursing (adult, child, mental health, learning and disability)
- Midwifery
- Dietitian
- Occupational therapy
- Orthoptics
- Orthotics and prosthetics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry/chiropractic
- Radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)
- Speech and language therapy
- Operating department practitioner

These loans will be the same as those available to undergraduate students. Students who are required to incur essential additional

expenditure while undertaking a course of higher education as a result of a disability will qualify for disabled students' allowances.

Additional support

Like undergraduates, postgraduate pre-registration students will be eligible for additional support through the Learning Support Fund administered through the NHS Business Services Authority including:

- a £1,000 Child Dependents Allowance
- up to £3,000 for exceptional hardship
- reimbursement of additional travel and accommodation costs over normal daily travel to clinical placements

For the most up to date and accurate funding information see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-bursary-reform/nhs-bursary-reform>

See also the Funding through the NHs webpage at:

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

The Council of Deans of Health Funding Clinic website also has really useful information about repayment of loans and how much you can expect to pay back each month once you are working

<https://thefundingclinic.org.uk/postgraduate/>

For Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland:

- Student Awards Services Wales www.nwssp.wales.nhs.uk/student-awards
- Student Awards Agency for Scotland www.saas.gov.uk
- Northern Ireland Direct Government Services website www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/health-professional-courses

Dietitian

As a dietitian you'll translate scientific information about nutrition into practical advice to help people make health-conscious decisions about food. You'll assess, diagnose and treat diet-related problems and aim to raise awareness of the link between food and health to prevent future problems.

A key part of the healthcare team, dietitians are the only nutrition professionals that are statutorily regulated.

Graduate entry

There are currently eight universities offering up to two year accelerated degrees for graduates. Normally, applicants for these courses will have successfully completed an honours degree course which contains an acceptable level of Human Physiology and Biochemistry. A good command of spoken and written English is essential. A desire to communicate healthy eating information to a wide range of audiences and promote healthy food choices is also important.

The following Universities currently offer the conversion course which lasts between 15 months and 2 years. You should always check for up-to-date accredited course information on the British Dietetic Association website <https://www.bda.uk.com/>

Glasgow Caledonian
Edinburgh, Queen Margaret
King's College London
Leeds Beckett

University of Chester
London Metropolitan
Cardiff Metropolitan University
The University Of Ulster

Work experience

Visit a hospital before applying to any of the courses and find out as much as possible about the work - some colleges and universities expect applicants to have visited a dietetic unit. It's also useful to get some

voluntary or paid work experience in a related hospital setting to show your interest and understanding of the area. Contact the dietetic manager at your local hospital to ask about opportunities.

Additional information sources

- British Dietetic Association
www.bda.uk.com
- NHS Careers Profile - Dietitian
www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/dietitian
- Prospects Occupational Profile
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/dietitian>
National Careers Service Job Profile
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/dietitian>
- Health and Care Professions Council
www.hpc-uk.org

Nutritionist

Nutritionists carry out research and use scientific knowledge to provide information and advice about the effects of food and nutrition on health and wellbeing. They can also be known as community nutritionist, public health nutritionist and food for health adviser.

The work of a nutritionist is very varied. This means that there is no one clear pathway into the profession.

A good place to start is to think about the sort of work you would like to do. Nutritionists work in a variety of organisations, including food companies, retailers, sports and leisure, the media and the NHS. Please note that nutritionists do not give dietary advice to individual patients or work directly with patients without supervision. This is done by a state registered dietitian.

For a list of career profiles working as a nutritionist see the Association for Nutrition (AfN) website

<http://www.associationfornutrition.org/Default.aspx?tabid=143>

Many employers will expect you to be registered with the UK Voluntary Register of Nutritionists

www.associationfornutrition.org/Default.aspx?tabid=76 , governed by the Association for Nutrition. This includes registration of public health nutritionists, exercise nutritionists and animal nutritionists.

To register directly you will usually need an AfN-approved degree or postgraduate qualification in nutrition or public health nutrition. Once you have graduated, you can apply to join the register as an Associate Nutritionist.

When you have around three years' professional experience, you will be eligible for full registration as a Registered Nutritionist. There are currently 24 Universities offering accredited post graduate degrees in Nutrition .You can find a full list of accredited degree and postgraduate courses on the AfN website

www.associationfornutrition.org/Default.aspx?tabid=134.

Work Experience

When applying for a course, and for your first job in nutrition, it may help you if you have some experience in the health service, for example as a healthcare assistant or dietetic assistant. Companies such as Unilever, GSK and Nestle can sometimes offer work placements or internships. If you are looking for work placements in Public Health Nutrition, these are often arranged at a local level with local universities. Many Public Health Nutrition jobs are based in NHS Primary Care trusts so you could try contacting your local PCT for any experience opportunities. It's also possible to get some work in a related food area such as food technology, product development or food safety and then move into a nutrition role.

You may also be able to find voluntary opportunities with charities or other not-for-profit groups. Experience of working in the community with

a food bank, for example, can also be helpful. There are several online listings for voluntary opportunities, for example Do-It.org. www.do-it.org.uk

Funding

Nutritionists are not registered with the Health and Care Professions Council and do not qualify for standard student loan funding. Use directories such as The Grants Register and the Prospects Postgraduate Funding Guide available in the Careers Service to identify possible sources. A career development loan is also worth investigating.

<https://www.gov.uk/career-development-loans>

Additional information sources

- The Association for Nutrition
www.associationfornutrition.org
- NHS Careers Profile <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/nutritionist>
- The National Careers Service Job Profile – Nutritionist
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/nutritionist>
- Nutritionists in Industry
www.nii.org.uk
- The Nutrition Society
www.nutritionistsociety.org

Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapists help people to overcome difficulties, which may be the result of physical or mental illness, an accident or the ageing process. They work with clients to help them lead full and independent lives and, where possible, prevent disability.

Graduate entry

An accelerated two-year Masters (or postgraduate diploma), is available for recent graduates (within the last five years) with relevant degrees and some health or social care experience. Relevant subjects include: biological or medical sciences; other health-related subjects; psychology; sociology. Accelerated programmes generally want a relevant degree of at least a 2.1.

Currently the following 16 universities offer an accelerated programme:

Essex	East Anglia
Derby	Oxford Brookes
Cumbria	Plymouth
Leeds Beckett	Sheffield Hallam
Brunel	Queen Margaret, Edinburgh
London South Bank	Glasgow Caledonian
Teeside	Cardiff
Northumbria	York St John

The Careers Handbook “Become an OT”, available online from the British Association of Occupational Therapists and College of Occupational Therapists (BAOT) , <https://www.rcot.co.uk/about-occupational-therapy/become-an-occupational-therapist/how-become-occupational-therapist> includes comprehensive advice for people considering a career in occupational therapy, and a detailed directory of courses and universities throughout the UK. Contact institutions individually to confirm their entry requirements, as these vary from course to course. It is extremely useful to visit an occupational therapy unit, within a hospital or social services, to gain an understanding of the profession before applying for a course.

Occupational therapy support workers and technical assistants with acceptable qualifications can work towards becoming OTs by taking a pre-registration programme leading to full professional recognition. You should check individual courses for entry requirements.

Work experience

You will be expected to have at least visited an occupational therapy department. Previous experience is particularly important for the two-year accelerated course and may include working with older people and people with mental health or physical disabilities. As the demands for the job are very varied, you will need to have experiences that demonstrate that you can be creative, persuasive, patient and flexible. An inquiring mind is important to the success of both assessment and treatment.

A wide range of volunteering experience would be useful either in a community or hospital environment. Jobs that could help you gain relevant experience include working as an occupational therapy assistant, social care support worker, social work assistant, teaching assistant in a special needs environment.

How to apply

Contact the universities that interest you and download a copy of their prospectus. This will give you a good idea of the ethos of the university and the facilities it offers. It should also tell you the dates of its forthcoming open days.

For most accelerated postgraduate programmes you do have to apply direct to Universities.

Information sources

- British Association of Occupational Therapists and College of Occupational Therapists
- <https://www.rcot.co.uk/>
- World Federation of Occupational Therapists
www.wfot.org
- Prospects Profile
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/occupational-therapist>
- NHS Careers Profile

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/occupational-therapist>

- The National Careers Service Job Profile
- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/occupational-therapist>
- Health and Care Professions Council
www.hpc-uk.org

Physiotherapy

Physiotherapists treat patients with physical difficulties resulting from illness, injury, disability or ageing. They treat people of all ages including children, the elderly, stroke patients and people with sports injuries.

Graduate entry

Some science and other graduates are eligible for accelerated two-year pre-registration MSc degree programmes in Physiotherapy or Rehabilitation Science. Most courses require a 2:1 degree and evidence of undergraduate research or dissertation. Applications should be made directly to institutions. A degree in the following subject areas may help you gain entry to an MSc programme: biological sciences; behavioural sciences; sports science; health-related disciplines; psychology; physiology; anatomy; chemistry; physical education.

The following universities currently offer the accelerated 2 year course. You should always check out as this list may continually change.

Birmingham

Brunel

Brighton

Cumbria

East Anglia

Essex

Glasgow Caledonian

Leeds Beckett

London Kings College

Sheffield Hallam

Manchester Metropolitan

Robert Gordon, Aberdeen

Northumbria

Oxford Brookes

St George's University, London
Southampton
Teesside

Queen Margaret, Edinburgh
York St John

Graduates of other subjects may apply for places on validated BSc degree courses if they satisfy the basic eligibility criteria. A list of all institutions offering accredited courses at both BSc and MSc level can be found on the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy website (www.csp.org.uk) and the NHS Course Finder site. <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder>

Work experience

Work experience in any aspect of healthcare will be useful to you. This is because admissions tutors are looking for evidence that you have the ability to communicate well with all ages and sections of the community, and can cope with bodily fluids, illness and disability. Examples of where you may find work experience are:

- Local hospitals and their physiotherapy departments (private or public)
- Private physiotherapy clinics - a search for local physiotherapists is available from the CSP website www.csp.org.uk/
- Sports clinics, football clubs or special schools, units (for physically disabled children and adults)
- Nursing homes for the elderly
- Voluntary work for example with the Red Cross, St Johns Ambulance Society or the MS Society.

Many physiotherapy programmes or hospital departments near you will probably hold an open day at some stage in the year. Information on open days is usually posted on individual university or hospital websites. Contact them to find out if anything is being organised and try to attend.

How to apply

Contact the universities that interest you to obtain a copy of their

prospectus. This will give you a good idea of the ethos of the university and the facilities it offers. It should also tell you the dates of its forthcoming open days. For most accelerated postgraduate programmes you do have to apply direct to Universities. All applications for undergraduate degree programmes are made through Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS) www.ucas.com/apply

Information sources

- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)
www.csp.org.uk/
- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
www.hpc-uk.org/
- The Physiotherapy Site
www.thephysiotherapysite.co.uk/
- Prospects Job description
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/physiotherapist>
- The National Careers Service Profile
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/physiotherapist>
- NHS Careers Profile
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/physiotherapist>

Radiography

There are two types of radiographer. Diagnostic radiographers employ a range of sophisticated equipment including X-rays and ultrasound to produce high quality images to diagnose an injury or disease. Therapeutic radiographers plan and deliver radiotherapy for the treatment of cancer.

Graduate entry

Accelerated postgraduate routes are available at the following universities: (T= therapeutic, D= diagnostic)

Liverpool (T)
Teesside (D)

Sheffield Hallam (T)
London South Bank (T)

Derby (D)

Queen Margaret (Edinburgh) (D+T)

All courses are listed on the Society of Radiographers Directory of Courses www.sor.org/about-radiography/career-radiography/directory-courses# and on the NHS course finder site <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder>

To apply, contact the individual institutions to check eligibility. To be eligible for these courses you will need to have achieved an upper second class degree or above in a related science or health care subject such as biological science, forensic science, biomedical science, nutrition and dietetics, psychology, health science ,nursing, sports science, pharmacology and physics.

Work experience

For diagnostic radiography, previous work experience within a radiography department, or work-shadowing of a qualified diagnostic radiographer, would strengthen an application and universities frequently expect a visit report as part of the entry criteria. For therapeutic radiography, previous work with the public, particularly in a health-related role, is useful. It is essential to spend some time at a radiotherapy centre. Contact the radiotherapy service manager at your local hospital and ask if you can undertake a placement or spend time work shadowing a qualified therapeutic radiographer.

Additional information sources:

- Prospects Occupational Profiles
- www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/diagnostic-radiographer
- www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/therapeutic-radiographer
- The Society of Radiographers
www.sor.org/about-radiography/career-radiography
- Radiography Careers
www.radiographycareers.co.uk
- NHS Careers Profile

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/radiographer-diagnostic
www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/therapeutic-radiographer

- Health and Care Professions Council
www.hpc-uk.org

Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and language therapists (SLT) assess and treat speech, language and communication problems in people of all ages to help them better communicate. They will also work with people who have eating and swallowing problems.

Graduate entry

Ten universities offer accelerated two-year postgraduate courses if you already have a relevant degree. Currently these are

Queen Margaret, Edinburgh
City University, London
University of Greenwich, London
Newcastle
University College, London

Reading University
Manchester Metropolitan
Sheffield
Essex
Canterbury Christ Church

The following degrees are often considered for entry to two-year courses: speech science/therapy/communication studies; linguistics; psychology; physiology; biological science; human biology and social science.

Work experience

Competition for places on all courses is high and pre-entry experience and knowledge of the profession is essential. Before applying, read up about the profession, try to visit child and adult clinics to observe and talk to practitioners. You may be asked about this on application forms and at interviews. However, admissions tutors appreciate that this can be

difficult to arrange so will consider a wide range of relevant experience. There are numerous ways of getting relevant work experience via either volunteering or paid work. Examples include work as a speech therapy assistant, work with children, or elderly or disabled people. This could be in either a health or social care environment.

Contact your local volunteer bureau or try to get some work experience in healthcare, a local nursing home or school. Local stroke groups also often need volunteers. The following organisations concerned with the needs of people with speech and language difficulties may also be able to provide information on opportunities for voluntary work:

- Headway www.headway.org.uk/
- ICAN www.ican.org.uk/
- Stroke Association www.stroke.org.uk
- National Autistic Society www.autism.org.uk/
- Afasic www.afasic.org.uk/
- Sense www.sense.org.uk/
- Manchester Deaf Centre www.manchesterdeafcentre.com/

You need to think about how you are developing and providing evidence of the following skills: excellent communication skills with people of all ages and backgrounds; patience, as progress may be slow; creativity; team working skills; organisational skills and flexibility; ability to be at ease in a clinical environment.

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists have excellent careers advice on its website and produce a free downloadable careers guide [www.rcslt.org/speech and language therapy/careers/career](http://www.rcslt.org/speech_and_language_therapy/careers/career)

How to apply

Contact the universities that interest you directly to obtain a copy of their prospectus. This will give you a good idea of the ethos of the university and the facilities it offers. It should also tell you the dates of its forthcoming open days. Closing dates vary between institutions but generally fall between September and December.

For most accelerated postgraduate programmes you do have to apply direct to Universities. For an up to date list of accredited courses visit the [NHS course finder](#) or the Health and Care Professions Register of Approved Programmes www.hpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/

Information sources

- Prospects Profile www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/speech-and-language-therapist
- Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists produce a free careers guide www.rcslt.org/speech_and_language_therapy/careers/career
- Health and Care Professions Council www.hpc-uk.org
- NHS Careers Profile <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/speech-and-language-therapist>

Physician Associate

Physician associates are medically trained, generalist healthcare professionals, who work alongside doctors and provide medical care as an integral part of the multidisciplinary team. They hold a variety of responsibilities and will typically work in General Practitioner (GP) surgeries or hospitals as part of a medical team.

This is a relatively new and expanding role, not to be confused with physician assistant. Physician associates are graduates and work under the direct supervision of a doctor and carry out many similar tasks, including patient examination, history taking, diagnosis and treatment.

This is not a route to becoming a doctor (you can't prescribe or request ionising radiation (e.g. chest x-ray or CT scan), but is an increasingly recognised job within the National Health Service (NHS).

Entry Requirements

Postgraduate training is academically challenging and usually lasts for 2 years. Applicants should hold a minimum of 2:1 honours degree in a relevant subject. This may include the life sciences (e.g. biomedical science, biochemistry, anatomy, physiology, healthcare science) or allied health professions (e.g. pharmacy, audiology, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy). A 2:2 may be acceptable in some cases if you already have exceptional health care/clinical experience.

There are currently over 30 Institutions offering the postgraduate training programme. For a full list of courses, see the Faculty of Physician Associates website

www.fparcp.co.uk/pa-students/pa-student-programmes or the NHS course finder site www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/course-finder

How to apply

Contact the universities that interest you directly to obtain a copy of their prospectus. This will give you a good idea of the ethos of the university and the facilities it offers. It should also tell you the dates of its forthcoming open days. Course start dates vary from September, January, February and May – check individual Institutions for details. Apply directly to institutions.

Funding

For September 2018 entry, Health Education England has launched a single, national funding strategy for all Physician Associate courses in England. Students will receive £5,000 towards tuition fees, split equally across the two years of the course.

A small number of courses are offered at Masters level and may also be eligible for postgraduate loan funding of up to £10,609. See the FindAMasters website for more information

www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/masters-loans.aspx

Work Experience

Admissions tutors will look for evidence that you understand the core NHS values and the role of a Physician Associate within the context of contemporary healthcare issues locally and nationally.

You will also need to demonstrate that they have the skills required to successfully complete this demanding course, balancing academic study with clinical placements, a willingness to travel and flexible working patterns. Evidence of voluntary or paid work experience in a clinical or healthcare setting (e.g. healthcare assistant or care home) is preferred.

Additional Information sources:

- NHS Careers Profile

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medical-associate-professions/roles-medical-associate-professions/physician-associate

- Prospect Occupational Profile

www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/physician-associate

- The Faculty of Physician Associates

www.fparcp.co.uk/

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