



Level 2 Healthcare Science Assistant

Carrying out routine technical and scientific procedures and support within hospitals, doctor surgeries and other healthcare settings for a wide range of people.

The Healthcare Science Assistant (HCSA) 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. 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. Some will work in laboratories, but others will work directly with patients every day.

Typical job roles may include:

- Phlebotomist
- Cardiographer
- Respiratory Care Assistant
- Audiology Assistant

Duration

Typical duration to gateway - 12 months (this does not include EPA period).

Industry-specific requirements

The apprentice must be employed within an appropriate setting and have the support of their employer to undertake the programme.

Benefits for Learners

1. Develop a range of essential skills they can apply in the working environment
2. Increased knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities
3. Build confidence and self-esteem
4. Self-development – building communication and professional skills

Benefit to the Business

1. Motivated workforce
2. Skilled and qualified staff

Delivery

Our blended approach means that our programmes are flexible and enable apprentices to experience a range of learning and support opportunities in a variety of formats such as online or at a local ACL centre. The apprentice will have a dedicated tutor who they will meet (online or face to face) once a month who will guide them through their apprenticeship and prepare them for their End Point Assessment. Additional workshops and seminars will be available to all learners to support additional learning and the off job learning requirement.

Commitment

6 hours a week (based on a 30 hour week) of a learner's contracted hours must be given to support the completion of the programme. Tutor led sessions are a mandatory part of the course along with any other learning activities set by the assessor or tutor.

Maths and English may need to be undertaken in addition to the main qualification depending on previous attainment in these areas. It is likely that the learner will be required to undertake research, reading and write ups to support their learning. The programme requires 100% commitment from the learner & employer to ensure successful completion.

End Point Assessment (EPA)

End Point Assessment (EPA) takes place at the end of the apprenticeship programme and is a comprehensive holistic assessment of the skills, knowledge and behaviours required as laid out in the apprenticeship standard.

The Level 2 Healthcare Science Assistant EPA is made up of:

Vocational Competence Observation (VCO) – by independent assessor in apprentice's own workplace setting. This will be to check the competence of the apprentice to the relevant standard.

Professional Practice Test (PPT) – 60 mins for apprentice to undertake the test under exam conditions; 20 minutes for discussion; 15 mins for all responses to be assessed and recorded.

Professional discussion – informed by the evidence presented - 30 minutes plus 15 minutes to complete assessment record.

Entry Requirements

Applicants must:

- Achieve the required level of Maths and English as part of the apprenticeship if a recognised qualification is not already held
- Be employed and have the support of their employer to undertake the programme

Application Process

Applicants will:

- Complete an application form
- Undertake an Initial Assessment test that includes maths and English
- Have an interview with an ACL team member to assess suitability and eligibility

Employers will:

- Sign a contract with ACL
- Consent to a health and safety checklist to be completed by an ACL team member

Contact

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