

Apprenticeship Factsheet for Applicants

What is an apprenticeship?

A programme of study completed 'on the job' in order to develop your skills and responsibilities in the job role and support your career progression. It differs from a college or university qualification in that you will gain practical experience alongside the qualification and you get paid while you study! North Bristol NHS Trust currently offers apprenticeships in health and social care and business administration, with healthcare sciences coming soon.

Who does an apprenticeship?

All band 2 and band 3 health care support workers will undertake an apprenticeship and the care certificate (unless they have already achieved an equivalent qualification previously). If you have achieved part of an equivalent qualification, you may only need to complete certain elements of the course.

Your prior learning will be assessed by the Learning and Development team during your induction – you should ensure that you bring any original certificates with you at this stage.

What will I study?

For all health care support workers, band 2 apprentices will undertake a level 2 apprenticeship (GCSE level) in Clinical Healthcare Support. The period of study is a minimum of 12 months (longer for part time) and you will study a range of topics. You will need to create a portfolio of evidence and complete an 'end point assessment' to pass the qualification. You will also need to undertake level 2 maths and English.

Band 3 apprentices will undertake a level 3 apprenticeship (A Level) in Clinical Healthcare Support, Perioperative Support, Mental Health, Maternity and Childcare or Allied Health depending on your work area. The period of study is a minimum of 18 months (longer for part time) and you will study a range of topics. You will need to create a portfolio of evidence, complete a diploma and complete an 'end point assessment' to pass the qualification. You will also need to pass level 2 Functional Skills maths and English.

All band 2 and 3 staff will also need to complete the Care Certificate as part of your apprenticeship programme.

How much study will I have to do?

You will need to attend 1 study session per month plus other training sessions in work or with a tutor, plus Functional Skills (if required). Apprenticeship standards

state that a learner has to spend 20% of their contracted hours doing 'off the job' training. This comes in a variety of formats, including: study days, learning time with tutors, supernumerary observation of other staff, specific CPD training for the ward, shadowing other staff etc.

Will it affect my pay?

You will get paid an apprenticeship wage during your study period. For new band 2 starters, this is £13,618 per year until completion of your study. You will then progress to £15,404 upon completion of your studies.

For band 3 starters, this is £13,896 for the first 6 months, then at £14,889 until completion of your studies. You will then progress to £16,968 upon completion of your studies.

The employing manager will decide whether you are band 2 or 3 based on previous experience, qualifications and job availability.

If you have continuous NHS service, your wages will stay the same as your current pay level.

How do I apply?

You must first gain a job as a health care support worker. Anyone can apply for this, providing that you are 16 or over and have the right to work in the UK. You do not necessarily need any qualifications as you will be given full on-the-job training, but you will need to pass an initial maths and English assessment and an interview if your application is successful.

To apply for a role, go to jobs.nbt.nhs.uk and look out for any **health care assistant** or **health care support worker** roles.

What if I have any questions?

If you have any questions regarding how to apply or what jobs are available, please contact jobshop@nbt.nhs.uk.

If you have more specific questions regarding what the apprenticeship entails, please contact apprenticeship.enquiries@nbt.nhs.uk.