



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

CLINICAL SCIENTIST



“ I enjoy being a clinical scientist because the job requires a combination of scientific, clinical and management skills. It is rewarding to be involved in the direct application of science to patient care. ”

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU

CLINICAL SCIENTIST

Laboratory Clinical Scientists work within Health & Personal Social Services (HPSS) laboratories and provide clinical interpretation of scientific data and advise on the diagnosis of disease and monitoring of treatment. They are involved in evaluation, research and development of investigative systems and set and monitor quality standards to meet current and future demand.

Clinical Scientists are also employed by the Regional Medical Physics Agency as medical physicists or clinical engineers. They apply scientific and clinical skills at a high level and provide advice, innovation and development to diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. Their roles range from Radiation Protection Advisors to provision of specialised clinical physiological measurement services.

Skills Required:

To be a Clinical Scientist you will need a high level of scientific achievement; high ethical standards; the ability to work in and lead a team; and accuracy, with close attention to detail.

Training Programme:

Clinical Scientists usually require a first (1) or upper second (2:1) class honours degree in a subject specific to the specialist area they wish to work in. Most commonly acceptable are Degrees in Life Sciences (Biology, Microbiology, Genetics or Biochemistry), Physics and Engineering.

A Clinical Scientist would join the laboratory as a trainee (Grade A) with both a primary degree (the minimum entry requirement) and, more normally, in addition a postgraduate qualification such as a Masters and/or PhD. Following successful completion of a 3-4 year formal training programme they would be eligible to practise as a state registered Clinical Scientist. This would enable the individual to move to the career grade (Grade B). In laboratory medicine, to practice at the most senior level (Grade C) individuals must obtain MRCPPath. The examination is taken in two parts, Part 1 (following Grade A training), Part 2 (following a further 4 years of study/training).

BSc Hons Microbiology

Queen's University Belfast undergraduate full-time three-four year programme

BSc Hons Genetics

Queen's University Belfast undergraduate full-time three-four year programme

BSc Hons Biochemistry

Queen's University Belfast undergraduate full-time three-four year programme

BSc Hons Physics

Queen's University Belfast undergraduate full-time three-four year programme

BSc Hons Biology

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

BEng Hons Engineering

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

BSc Hons Microbiology: Stage 1 entry: AB/BCC including Biology and Chemistry + GCSE Mathematics. AS Chemistry grade C would be acceptable in lieu of A-level Chemistry.

Stage 0 entry: students with a less appropriate combination of subjects or slightly lower grades will be considered for admission to Stage 0 (4 year course).

BSc Hons Genetics: Mathematics. AS Chemistry grade C would be acceptable in lieu of A-level Chemistry.

Stage 0 entry: students with a less appropriate combination of subjects or slightly lower grades will be considered for admission to Stage 0 (4 year course).

BSc Hons Biochemistry: Stage 1 entry: AB/BCC to include Chemistry and one of Biology, Mathematics or Physics + GCSE Mathematics. AS Biology grade C would be acceptable in lieu of A-level Biology.

Stage 0 entry: students with a less appropriate combination of subjects or slightly lower grades will be considered for admission to Stage 0 (4 year course).

BSc Hons Physics: BB/CCC including Mathematics and Physics.

Stage 0 entry: students with a less appropriate combination of subjects or slightly lower grades will be considered for admission to Stage 0 (four year course).

BSc Hons Biology: A minimum of 260 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades BC (to include either VCE Double Award in Science or a GCE science subject). GCSE passes at grade C or above in Chemistry, Mathematics and a foreign language are preferable. An 'A' level or Irish Leaving Certificate (Higher level) in Biology is desirable.

BEng Hons Engineering (with Specialisms): A minimum of 260 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades BC to include GCE 'A' level Mathematics and one from Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Technology or Technology and Design OR VCE Double Award in Engineering and a VCE 'A' level in any other subject.

Career Pathway:

Within the HPSS, trainee Clinical Scientists are employed on the Clinical Scientist Grade A payscale. After successful completion of training Clinical Scientists can apply for positions at Grade B, the main professional grade. Grade B posts are also open to candidates with other relevant experience and qualifications. Progress through Grade B is not automatic or continuous - salaries are linked to job descriptions. The Clinical Scientist can develop their job further to the Senior and Principal Scientist level by accepting increased responsibility and/or participation in research and development projects.

Principal Clinical Scientists may be promoted to Grade C (consultant level), either on grounds of individual scientific merit, or to take a post in charge of a laboratory or department providing a range of services.

Professional Recognition:

Graduates of the BSc Hons Biology Course are eligible for membership of the Institute of Biology. The BEng Hons Engineering (with Specialisms) course have been designed to meet the academic requirements of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers

How to Apply:

For undergraduate full-time programme, application should be made through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Web Links:

Queen's University Belfast – www.qub.ac.uk

The University of Ulster – www.ulster.ac.uk

The Association of Clinical Scientists - www.assclinsci.org

The Association of Clinical Biochemists - www.acb.org.uk

The Royal College of Pathologists - www.rcpath.org

The Health Professions Council - www.hpc-uk.org

Contact address for further copies

HPSS Careers

The Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Human Resources Directorate

Workforce Development Unit

Room D1.4

Castle Buildings

Stormont Estate

Upper Newtownards Road

Belfast BT4 3SQ

Tel: (028) 9052 2664

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

