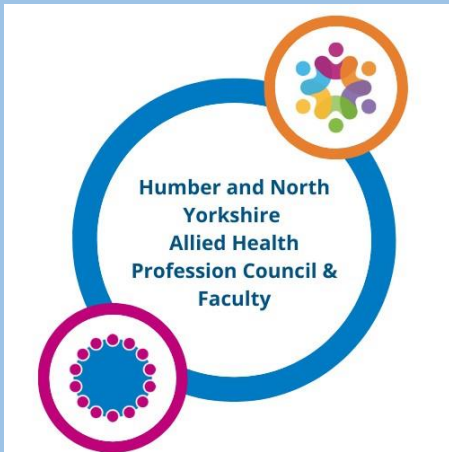




Becoming an Allied Health Professional (AHP)

A Guide for Prospective Students



Humber and North Yorkshire (HNY)
Allied Health Professions (AHP)
Faculty



Who is this guide for?

Are you considering a career in health care but not sure where to start?

You may already know what nurses, doctors and health care assistants (HCAs) roles are in care settings, but do you know that Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and AHP Support Workers also provide system-wide care to assess, treat, diagnose and discharge patients, across all organisations?

This guide has been created to help you understand the wide range of job roles that are available to you and the routes to qualification in your chosen profession.

Who has created this guide and why?

This guide has been produced by:

Humber and North Yorkshire Allied Health Professions Faculty (HNY AHP Faculty)

to improve awareness and provide information about the different AHPs working across our region, and encourage prospective students to follow a career as an AHP.

To find out more about the HNY AHP use the QR link on the front page.

You can also follow us on Social Media



What's included in this guide?

Who are AHPs

Routes into professions

Where can you go to find out more and what to do next



Which professions does the term Allied Health Professions refer to?

Allied Health Professionals are made up 15 different health care professionals:

1. Art Therapists
2. Dieticians
3. Diagnostic Radiographers
4. Therapeutic Radiographers
5. Drama Therapists
6. Music Therapists
7. Occupational Therapists
8. Operating Department Practitioner
9. Orthoptists
10. Osteopaths
11. Paramedics
12. Physiotherapists
13. Podiatrists
14. Prosthetists and Orthotists
15. Speech and Language Therapists

AHP Support Workers

In addition to these professional groups, AHP Support Workers also play a crucial role in delivering safe and effective care across all health and social care settings, carrying out a wide range of tasks to support the AHP workforce.

Read more about the roles of AHP Support Workers and hear some inspiring stories at:

[AHP Support Workers | aspiringallies.co.uk](http://aspiringallies.co.uk)

AHPs are the
third largest
workforce in the
NHS.

AHPs are involved in
managing patients' care
of all ages by using a
holistic approach, to
start well, live well and
age well.

14 of the 15
professions are
regulated by the
Health and Care
Professions Council
(HCPC).

AHPs may work in
primary care,
secondary care,
voluntary
organisations and
private organisations.



The AHP avatars

Use the QR codes below to find out more about each AHP:

 <p>Art therapist</p>	 <p>Dietitian</p>	 <p>Diagnostic radiographer</p>	 <p>Dramatherapist</p>
			
 <p>Occupational therapist</p>	 <p>Music therapist</p>	 <p>Operating department practitioner</p>	 <p>Orthoptist</p>
			



How to pursue a career as an Allied Health Professional

Applying for University Courses

If you have entry level qualifications to go straight into Level 6 you can complete your AHP degree at University. Healthcare degrees use a combination of hands-on placements and traditional lectures, during which time you will learn all the required theory and clinical skills to be successful in your chosen profession.

Use the NHS course finder to search for [Course Finder | healthcareers.nhs.uk](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/course-finder)

You can also search for University locations, courses and entry requirements at: [Search for courses UCAS | digital.ucas.com](https://www.digitalschools.com/search-for-courses-ucas)

To apply for a University course you will need to register with UCAS at [Accounts | UCAS.com](https://www.ucas.com). You can start your application from here. You can find more guidance on your application including personal details, employment and education history at [Filling in your UCAS undergraduate application | UCAS.com](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate-application). There is a fee to make an application, details can be found on the above websites.



Apprenticeships

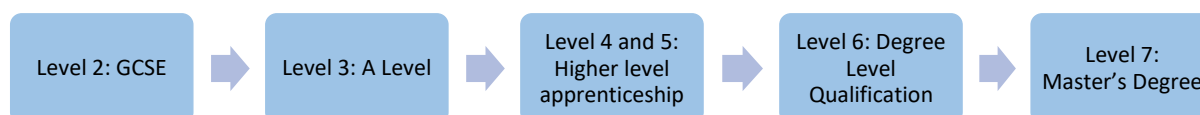
If you don't have the entry requirements for University or you're unsure about wanting to go to University because of financial or personal circumstances, an apprenticeship in healthcare could be an alternative option. Apprenticeships allow for learning in the clinical environment whilst receiving a salary. They are offered in a variety of subjects across Humber and North Yorkshire.

There are different levels of apprenticeships available ranging from level 2-7. Each level is equivalent to a qualification, examples below:

- Level 2: GCSE
- Level 3: A Level
- Level 4 and 5: Higher level apprenticeship
- Level 6: Degree level qualification
- Level 7: Master's degree



Find out more about apprenticeships: [Step into the NHS: Apprenticeships](https://www.nhs.uk/step-into-the-nhs/apprenticeships)



AHP support workers assist the registered allied health professional staff and the wider healthcare team to carry out clinical and non-clinical tasks that are crucial to a patient's care and treatment.

Once in an AHP support worker role you may be able to move onto an Apprenticeship qualification.

[Search: NHS Jobs](https://www.nhs.uk/jobs)



NHS Learning Support Fund (LSF)

Those applying to university for either a pre-registration undergraduate or postgraduate course may be eligible for the [NHS learning support fund](#).



Allied Health Professions included are: Dietetics, Occupational Therapy, Operating Department Practitioner (ODP), Orthoptics, Orthotics and Prosthetics, Paramedics (some courses excluded), Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Diagnostic Radiographer, Therapeutic Radiographer and Speech and Language Therapy. Please visit the website linked above for further information of what funding those applying may be eligible for.

What do I need to do next?

Work Experience

Often when applying for jobs or University courses, you may be asked for evidence of experience. This may be from a previous job role or work experience. Applicants can contact their local organisation for work experience or volunteering opportunities. Search here for suggestions on how to access work experience placements:

[Getting Experience | healthcareers.nhs.uk](https://healthcareers.nhs.uk)

Writing a personal statement

When applying for an undergraduate university course, you will be asked to supply a personal statement (sometimes called 'Supporting Information'). UCAS offer a guide on how to formulate a personal statement so that you showcase your skills, knowledge and experiences and explain your suitability for your chosen course. This resource is also useful if applying for apprenticeships and support worker roles, along with many other professions.



[How to write your undergraduate personal statement | UCAS.com](https://ucas.com)

Available resources

The Humber and North Yorkshire Careers Hub features a number of resources for career pathways, education and training, support with your applications along with a list of work experience links for you to access.

[HNY Careers Hub | hnycareershub.co.uk](https://hnycareershub.co.uk)





Register for a guide to a career in the NHS: [We are the NHS. Get your guide to an NHS career. | Health Careers](#)



NHS Careers quiz: [Take our careers quiz | Health Careers](#)



Step into the NHS take the test: [Step Into The NHS : Take the test](#)



Routes into a career as an Allied Health Professional: [Routes into AHP Careers \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](#)



Allied Health Professional career opportunities: [AHP 01 001 A universe of opportunities \(e-learningforhealthcare.org.uk\)](#)



Allied Health Professions Support Workforce training, education and careers: [ahp_support_workforce_final.pdf \(ahpnw.nhs.uk\)](#)



Aspiring Allies Quiz: [What's your AHP? Quiz - Aspiring Allies](#)



Aspiring Allies AHP Support Workers: [AHP Support Workers - The Value they bring to the Allied Health Professional Workforce - Aspiring Allies](#)



Think care careers: [Job roles \(skillsforcare.org.uk\)](#)

