



# Healthcare Industry Degree Guide



**EMPLOYABILITY  
TEAM**  

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Advancing Careers

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## Introduction

“What can I do with a Health and Social Care degree?”

“What can I do with a Business and Healthcare degree?”

“Which companies offer careers with my degree?”

If you're asking yourself these questions then we would advise you to research your career choices as thoroughly and as early as possible, particularly in relation to experience required, different career routes you can explore or where postgraduate study choices can develop future opportunities.

Three ways you will succeed in finding a graduate job:

1. Undertaking paid work whilst at university or in the six months immediately after
2. Focusing your job search exclusively on graduate level jobs and making your applications whilst still studying
3. Having a career plan upon leaving university

## I have a degree, now what?

If you don't know what career you want when you graduate, you may have more options than you think. Having a degree opens you up to many graduate level jobs and postgraduate study, which doesn't specifically have to be in healthcare, as many industries are open to graduates from any degree background. So, explore your options!

The below link has some useful guidance for graduates who are still deciding on their career ideas and options; key skills that are gained in each degree and what you can do with them.

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/career-ideas/i-have-degree-now-what>

## Career Decision Making

Your first step should be to bridge the gap between where you are and where you want to be. Exploring your values, interests, and skills will help you find educational and career options that match up with your goals and plan for the future.

As well as being familiar with opportunities you can secure with the degree you are studying or have studied, it may be useful to take a careers assessment or quiz, to get a deep understanding of industries or alternative roles you may be suited to. Examples of these are below:

- **Buzz Quiz** – A short, fun quiz which uses the Myer-Briggs personality factors to determine what careers may suit you (as well as other things).  
<https://icould.com/buzz-quiz/>
- **National Careers Service Skills Assessment** – An assessment that supports you in identifying your transferable skills as well as finding out what interests and motivates you.  
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>

- **Prospects** – Offers a ‘Career Planner’ which is a detailed career quiz as well as the ‘Job Match Beta’ which asks questions on interests, as well as what you find purposeful and rewarding, matching your answers with job roles.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/planner>

## **Possible Routes/Areas of Interest**

The jobs listed below are examples of the type of roles and areas that may be worth looking into:

- Health administration
- Care management
- Community development worker
- Charity officer
- Social work
- Nursing
- Health therapies
- Youth work
- Counsellor
- Well-being
- Mental health practitioner
- Teaching and further training
- Special educational needs
- Medical technician
- Support worker
- Midwife/Health visitor
- Ambulance services; operational and administrative roles
- Public health
- Roles in rehabilitation; speech, language and physical therapists
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Probation officers
- Clergy
- Child and early years officers
- Housing officers
- Police force
- Medical sales
- Health promotion

## **Think about your client base**

This a wide-ranging sector; not only do you need to think about the industry and type of role but also the specific groups of people you would like to work with, such as the elderly, young people and children, families, people with mental or physical disabilities or others.

## Where and how can I do my research - General

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk>

<https://www.civilservicejobs.service.gov.uk>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk>

<https://www.milkround.com/advice/?s=healthcare>

<https://targetjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/healthcare/how-do-i-get-graduate-job-healthcare-operations-and-management>

## Where and how can I do my research - Targeted

How to become a Nurse

[https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/nursing-careers?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIpvHKjcv68wIVz9PtCh0zQREEAAYAAAEgKRTvD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/we-are-the-nhs/nursing-careers?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIpvHKjcv68wIVz9PtCh0zQREEAAYAAAEgKRTvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

How to become a Social Worker

<https://www.socialworkengland.org.uk>

<https://www.basw.co.uk/resources/become-social-worker/how-become-social-worker>

How to become an Occupational Therapist

[https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/occupational-therapist?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIxpCA58v68wIVD7\\_tCh2GpwSAEAAYAAAEg1bfD\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/occupational-therapist?gclid=EAlaIQobChMIxpCA58v68wIVD7_tCh2GpwSAEAAYAAAEg1bfD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

How to become a Radiographer

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/diagnostic-radiographer/entry-requirements-and-training-diagnostic>

How to become a Physiotherapist

[https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/physiotherapist?gclid=EAlaIQobChMliJvkscz68wIVCIBQBh0zRA0uEAAYASAAAEgLV\\_D\\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/roles-allied-health-professions/physiotherapist?gclid=EAlaIQobChMliJvkscz68wIVCIBQBh0zRA0uEAAYASAAAEgLV_D_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds)

How to become a Healthcare Manager

<https://explorehealthcareers.org/career/health-administration-management/health-administrator/>

How to become a Counsellor

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/careers/careers-in-counselling>

## How to gain experience

Whatever career area you're interested in, finding some short-term paid or voluntary work will improve your prospects of getting a job and can give you a valuable insight into how a company or organisation operates. Volunteering demonstrates commitment and is an excellent way to gain experience in dealing with individuals, children, families and caring for vulnerable groups.

You can seek opportunities to get healthcare experience in your local hospital, doctor's surgery, day centres or schools and nursing homes. If you like to work with children, you could volunteer in schools, summer camps, youth clubs and local sports teams. Experience of mentoring, counselling, or befriending may also be useful for social work and related careers.

Victim support organisations, homeless shelters and mental health charities such as Mind provides valuable experience for those hoping to work with vulnerable groups as well as phone line counsellor roles for charities such as ChildLine, Nightline or the Samaritans.

If you're interested in alternative approaches to health and healing, you could explore work experience within a holistic health practice. Volunteering on a health project in a developing country is also valuable career preparation.

Other relevant experience includes working in a community setting or at fitness centres in health promotion or getting involved in more wide-ranging community projects at advice centres, community centres, churches and other faith communities.

## Where to look for volunteering opportunities

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/get-involved/get-involved/volunteering/>

<https://doit.life/volunteer>

<https://www.volunteermatch.org/>

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/ncvo-volunteering/i-want-to-volunteer>

<https://volunteeringmatters.org.uk/>

<https://reachvolunteering.org.uk/>

<https://www.unitedway.org/get-involved/volunteer#>

<https://engage.pointsoflight.org/>

<https://www.justserve.org/>

<https://www.charityjob.co.uk/Volunteer-Jobs>

## Where to look for graduate schemes?

### NHS GRADUATE MANAGEMENT TRAINING SCHEME

A fast-track programme to prepare you to work as a senior manager in healthcare; during the Scheme you are employed on a fixed-term contract and receive a salary.

You can specialise in one of six areas:

- [general management](#)
- [finance](#)
- [human resources](#)
- [health informatics](#)
- [policy and strategy](#)
- [health analysis](#)

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/graduate-training-opportunities/nhs-graduate-management-training-scheme>

### NHS GRADUATE TRAINING ACCELERATED PROGRAMMES

Accelerated or shortened courses available in certain clinical professions such as nursing and the allied health professions; undertake training in 2 years instead of 3 or 4.

These courses are available in:

- [nursing – adult, children’s, learning disabilities](#), and [mental health](#) fields
- [diagnostic](#) and [therapeutic radiography](#)
- [dietetics](#)
- [occupational therapy](#)
- [orthoptics](#)
- [paramedicine](#)
- [physiotherapy](#)
- [podiatry](#)
- [speech and language therapy](#)

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/graduate-training-opportunities/accelerated-programmes>

### **FRONTLINE GRADUATE SCHEME**

Children and Families Social Work - 2-year, salaried social work training programme.

<https://thefrontline.org.uk>

### **STEP UP TO SOCIAL WORK**

An intensive full-time, fully funded, Postgraduate Diploma in Social Work training programme, that allows you to become a qualified social worker in just 14 months.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-step-up-to-social-work>

### **THINK AHEAD GRADUATE SCHEME**

Fast-track mental health social work scheme; a busaried and salaried 2 year scheme

<https://thinkahead.org/>

### **NATIONAL GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

Fast-track national graduate programme specifically for mangerial roles working in local government

<https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/leadership-workforce-and-communications/national-graduate-development-programme>

### **POLICE NOW GRADUATE SCHEME**

Competitively salaried, 2-year graduate training programme; at the end of the 2 years, you have a number of options inside policing.

<https://www.policenow.org.uk/>

### **UNLOCKED GRADUATE SCHEME**

A leadership development programme that recruits graduates and career changers to become prison officers.

<https://unlockedgrads.org.uk/>

## Where to look for other graduate jobs and part-time opportunities?

NHS Band 5 roles are the professional entry level jobs, and they include a diverse range of of clinical, management and administrative roles.

[https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/search\\_vacancy/](https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/search_vacancy/)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/working-for/>

<https://www.healthsocialcarejobs.co.uk>

<https://www.healthjobsuk.com/>

<https://www.nice.org.uk/>

<https://www.reed.co.uk/>

<https://uk.indeed.com/>

<https://www.bmj.com/careers/>

<https://www.healthjobs.co.uk/>

<https://hccareers.co.uk/>

## Employers who recruit Health and Social Care graduates

NHS

Local Authorities

Police Force

Department of Health and Social Care

Schools and Colleges

Charity and Not-for-profit Organisations

Ofsted

BUPA

The Nuffield Trust

St John Ambulance

Ministry of Defence

Private Healthcare Organisations

## Do I need a Postgraduate qualification?

Master's degrees are available in a very wide range of healthcare and public health-related subjects. Some are specifically aimed at people who are already qualified in a certain field, but others are more general and open to those with other qualifications and backgrounds. For many health-related careers, such as Nursing, Social Worker and Occupational Therapy you will need to take a Master's degree in order to qualify in your profession.

Think about your next steps and whether you will need to pursue a postgraduate qualification in order to get there.

Search for courses you're interested in

- ARU Postgraduate Degrees
- UCAS Postgraduate
- Findamasters.com
- Other university websites



We have a number of Postgraduate courses at Anglia Ruskin University in Social Work, Mental Health and Occupational Therapy etc, so please have a look at these through the link below:

<https://aru.ac.uk/study/postgraduate>

Please also find listed below some direct links from other universities but this is a preliminary list and we would encourage you to complete your own research to find the course that's most suitable for you.

## **PG Pre Registration Courses**

All nursing courses validated by the Nursing and Midwifery Council, Social Work and some Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy courses require maths and English GCSE grade 4 / level C or equivalent.

### **Nursing**

<https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/adult-nursing-pre-registration>

<https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/adult-mental-health-nursing-pre-registration>

<https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/study/course-finder/adult-nursing-pre-registration-pgdip>

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses/nursing-with-registration-as-an-adult-nurse-msc>

<https://www.gre.ac.uk/postgraduate-courses/eduhea/nursing-adult-nursing>

### **Mental Health Nursing**

<https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/mental-health-nursing-pre-registration>

<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/nursing-mental-health>

<https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/study/course-finder/mental-health-nursing-pre-registration-pgdip>

<https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/study/course-finder/learning-disability-nursing-pgdip>

### **Social Work**

<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/social-work-ma>

<https://www.mdx.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/social-work-pgdip>

<https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/study/course-finder/social-work-ma>

### **Occupational Therapy**

<https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/study/course-finder/occupational-therapy-pre-registration-pgdip-msc>

<https://www.brunel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/occupational-therapy-pre-registration-msc>

### **Physiotherapy**

Require anatomy and physiology, which we are introducing

<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/study/courses/physiotherapy-pre-registration#overview>

<https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/study/course-finder/physiotherapy-msc-pre-reg>

### **Speech and Language Therapy**

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/study/masters/msc-speech-and-language-sciences>

<https://www.city.ac.uk/study/courses/postgraduate/speech-and-language-therapy>

## Public Health

Brunel Online Masters various: <https://gus.cvtr.io/lp/brunel-online-live-lp>  
<https://www.uel.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/msc-public-health>  
<https://www.city.ac.uk/prospective-students/courses/postgraduate/public-health>

## How do PGDips and PGCerts differ from Masters degrees?

Postgraduate diplomas (PGDip) and certificates (PGCert) are perfect for those who don't have the time or the funds for a full Masters. Ideal if you'd like to increase your knowledge, without having to write another dissertation.

For further information about what these involve and the benefits and drawbacks  
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/postgraduate-diplomas-and-certificates#:~:text=However%2C%20they%20differ%20in%20some,of%20modules%20worth%20180%20credits.&text=PGDips%20take%20two%20terms%20with,with%20modules%20worth%2060%20credits.>

## Enterprise

You might also want to explore the world of enterprise. If you've got a great idea and you spot a gap in the market and want to earn a living from doing something you're passionate about, if you start your own business, you won't be unemployed.

You might want to help others or make the world a better place, so if you have a product or service that can save people time, or money, or stress, and generally make life better, then this is always a great reason for starting a business.

The Enterprise Hub is an entrepreneurial support service provided to current students and alumni who wish to establish their own businesses. The Enterprise Team is comprised of experts who possess a wide range of specialist business skills and experience. This includes a group of students and alumni entrepreneurs who offer not only their insights to running a successful business but also provide additional guidance as peer mentors. The Hub offers bespoke workshops to those already running businesses as well as those seeking to establish new start-ups. To register your interest or for more information please contact our Enterprise Team via email - [Enterprise@london.aru.ac.uk](mailto:Enterprise@london.aru.ac.uk)

## Employability Support

If you need any employability support or want to discuss your future career options, you can book a one-to-one appointment with one of our Careers Consultants. So, whether you're looking to prepare for your first graduate role and need advice on your CV or application form, or you're looking for a part-time job to fit around your studies or want to apply for a postgraduate course, then please drop us an email at [employability@london.aru.ac.uk](mailto:employability@london.aru.ac.uk) or call us 0207 400 6789 and we'll get you booked in as soon as possible.