

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



Clinical Perfusion Scientist

Area of HCS: Physiological Science

Pay scale: £25k-£67k

AMAZING FACT

On average, the human heart beats 36,792,000 times per year, 100,800 times per day, 4,200 times per hour and 70 times per minute.

In open heart surgery, you will need some help in pumping your blood round your body whilst the heart is being worked on. This is where these guys come in, they look after your circulation whilst the operation is going on.

With the help of a large number of sophisticated machines, (See Right) they take over a patient's lung and heart functions. They literally sustain the life of a person whose heart has been stopped. When you hear the words 'going onto bypass' on hospital TV dramas, it is these guys saying that.

They are taking the blood out of the body, oxygenating it in a machine, and then putting it back in whilst the heart or lungs are being operated on! That is some serious responsibility.

You have to be a serious team player in this career working alongside anaesthetists, surgeons and theatre staff to keep the patient alive and safe. Communication and being able to keep calm and give clear instructions is also key.

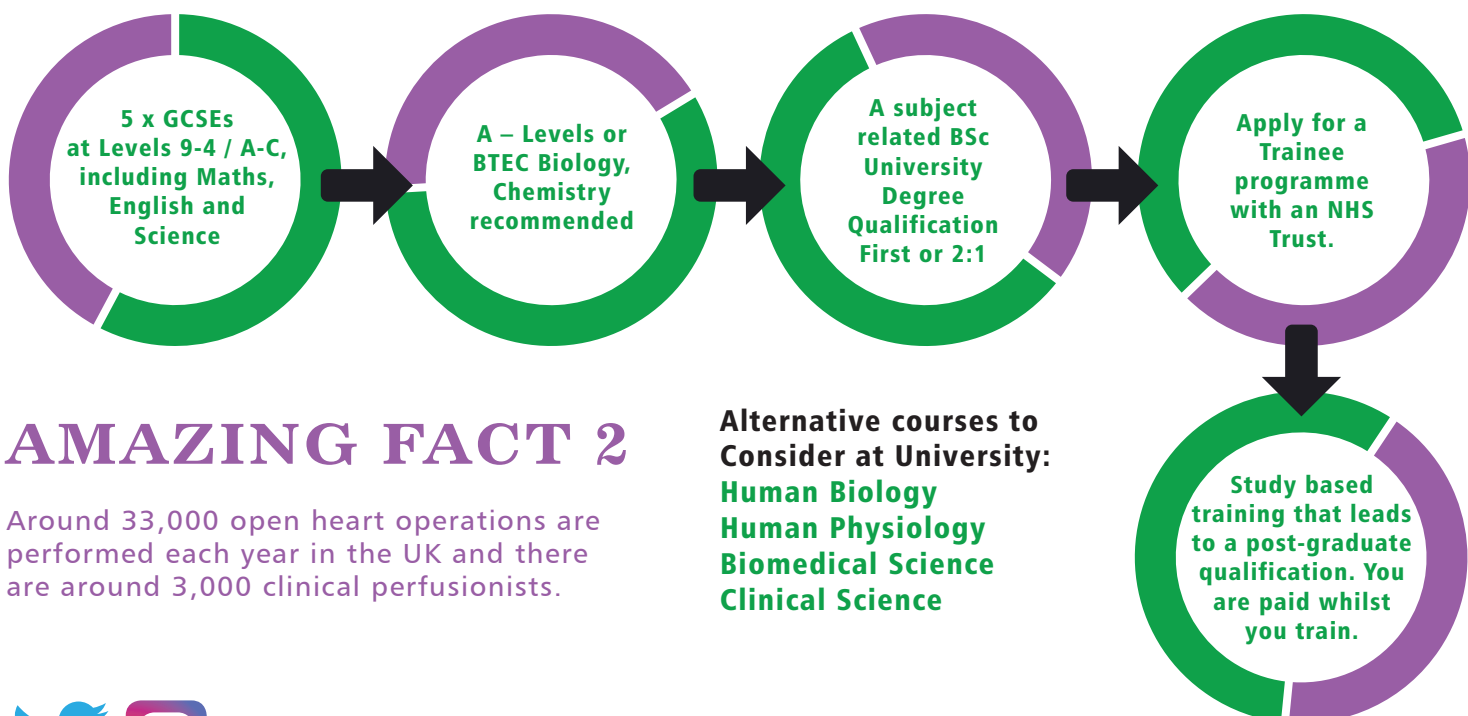
It's not just adults that need heart surgery. New born babies are common patients, having to have defects in their heart repaired fairly soon after birth.



SEARCH

There is a dedicated website for Clinical Perfusion. You can check it out by going to www.scps.org.uk. It has more info on what these peeps get up to as well as links to jobs vacancies.

What to do to get into this career...



AMAZING FACT 2

Around 33,000 open heart operations are performed each year in the UK and there are around 3,000 clinical perfusionists.

Alternative courses to Consider at University:

Human Biology
Human Physiology
Biomedical Science
Clinical Science



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