

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



Analytical Toxicology

Area of HCS: Life Science
Pay scale: Band 7-8 (£30k-£80k)

AMAZING FACT

In this career you could be checking for poisons, drug overdoses or even chemical agents that have been used in a terrorist attack!

Ever been bitten by a spider? Well if you have and it was poisonous you'd want to know one of these guys. They design and create wonderful tests to help the Doctors work out which poison the Spider has injected into you.

They also work out tests that can tell what drug overdose a patient has taken. This can be from just looking at the patients pains and groans to tests carried out on expensive specialised equipment.

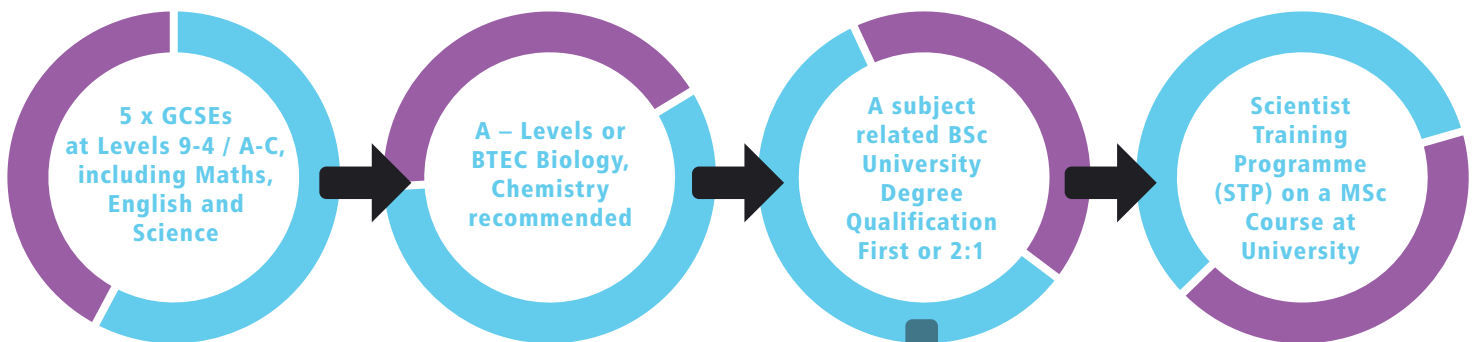
The majority of their day-to-day work is carried out in a lab, working with a host of varied samples such as: blood, urine, & stomach contents from patients. Occasionally, extracts from the environment are analysed – such as when investigating the source of lead poisoning of patients near to a suspected contaminated lake or river, for example.



Top Tip

To become an Analytical Toxicologist you usually have to study a science related subject before going onto the Scientific Training Programme (STP). To get onto a STP course you have to apply for a position via the NHS jobs website. In 2014 there were over 200 STP positions to apply for from the careers in healthcare science.

What to do to get into this career...



Top Tip

Check out the range of courses at University that would be relevant for this career and then check what the entry requirements are for each of them for a more accurate picture.

Did you know?

If you study on the Scientific Training Programme (STP) you actually get paid to train! How cool is that?

Courses to consider at University:
Biochemistry
Immunology
Forensic Science

Similar careers to look out for in Life Sciences:
Biochemistry
Haematology
Clinical Immunology



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