



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

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

The Health & Social Care Team



Needs You

A CAREER HANDBOOK



The Health & Social Care Team
Needs You

“ I’m so pleased I’ve chosen a profession which really makes a difference. ”

CONTENTS

Introduction	4	Manager	76
Foreword	5	Security Officer	79
Biomedical Scientist	6	Estates Officer	80
Creative Therapist.....	8	Domestic Assistant.....	83
Dentist.....	12	Support Team Worker.....	84
Professions Complementary to Dentistry.....	14	Index.....	86
Clinical Psychologist.....	18		
Dietitian	20		
Information, Communication & Technology Officer (ICT)	22		
Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA)	24		
Medical Secretary	26		
Occupational Therapist	28		
Optometrist.....	30		
Pharmacist.....	32		
Physiotherapist	34		
Podiatrist.....	36		
Social Worker	38		
Social Care Assistant	40		
Speech & Language Therapist	42		
Administration and Clerical Officer	44		
Doctor	46		
Healthcare Assistant	50		
Midwife.....	52		
Nurse.....	54		
Caterer	57		
Clinical Physiologist.....	58		
Orthoptist.....	60		
Porter	62		
Radiographer	64		
Clinical Scientist.....	66		
Paramedic/Ambulance Technician.....	70		
Prosthetist & Orthotist.....	74		

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed as a reference for careers in the Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) today. Over 30 careers are represented but it is by no means an exhaustive list.

Staff working as part of the health and social care team play an important role in the delivery of vital care and services to our local population.

Thanks is extended to all who contributed to the booklet – the HPSS staff whose photographs depict the people who make up the healthcare teams, the professionals who validated and contributed to the information and also the local universities for their input.

Although, on the whole, only local universities feature in the booklet there are many UK universities that offer the same or similar undergraduate programmes.

Accompanying this booklet is a series of single leaflets of each individual career and a compact disc is available containing the careers information.

Many helpful websites are included in this handbook. It should be noted all entry qualifications were sourced from the university websites mentioned and updated information can be sourced from these.

To obtain further copies of any of the literature a contact address is listed on the back page of this booklet.

FOREWORD

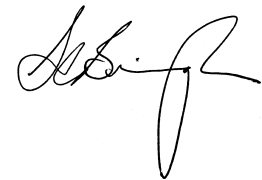
The Health and Personal Social Services (HPSS) is the largest single employer with more than 70,000 staff in Northern Ireland. As the largest employer we can offer you a wide range of employment opportunities where you can make a difference and contribute to local healthcare provision.

This HPSS Careers Handbook has been designed to provide comprehensive information on more than 30 different career opportunities in Northern Ireland today. The handbook contains details on posts, skills, requirements, training, professional qualifications, career pathways and how you can apply and where to obtain further information.

Employment in the health and social care sector means being part of a vital team providing essential patient/client centred services to our population.

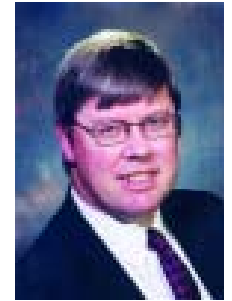
As part of this valued team you will work in a dynamic environment with good financial remuneration and job satisfaction.

We need you on our team – apply now!



David Bingham

The Director of HPSS Human Resources



BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST

Biomedical Scientists work in clinical laboratories carrying out scientific analysis of samples to provide clinical diagnostic results, so that pathologists and clinicians can diagnose disease, decide on the best form of treatment and monitor its effectiveness. They include a wide group of disciplines, which includes cytopathology, haematology, histopathology, microbiology, immunology, clinical chemistry, medical genetics, tissue typing and transfusion science.

Biomedical Scientists analyse a variety of sample types to diagnose different disease states or to monitor drug treatments, providing services within recognised quality systems. They use sophisticated analysers along with manual interpretative techniques within a diverse range of specialties. Where required, they provide a comprehensive out of hours working regime.

Skills Required:

You should have an interest in and an enthusiasm for understanding medical issues and it is essential to have good practical laboratory skills and manual dexterity. You must be able to prioritise tasks and work accurately and quickly. Competent mathematical and organisational skills are also required.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Biomedical Science

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 260 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades BC in two science subjects. Grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent is required.

The degree programme normally includes a year of work placement, preferably undertaken in an NHS laboratory.

Other universities throughout the UK offer approved degrees.

“As a Biomedical Scientist I liaise with doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals in the diagnosis of disease and the effectiveness of treatment. It is satisfying to know that patients benefit from my highly developed skills.”

Career Pathway:

To practise as a qualified Biomedical Scientist it is essential to obtain state registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC). The degree from University of Ulster is being developed and it is hoped that in the near future students will become state registered with HPC upon graduation. Currently successful students require a minimum of three months in an approved laboratory prior to obtaining state registration.

Post qualification there is a recognised career pathway to Chief Biomedical Scientist within the HPSS.

Professional Recognition:

Graduates are eligible to apply for Associate Membership of The Institute of Biomedical Science (AIBMS).

How to Apply:

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

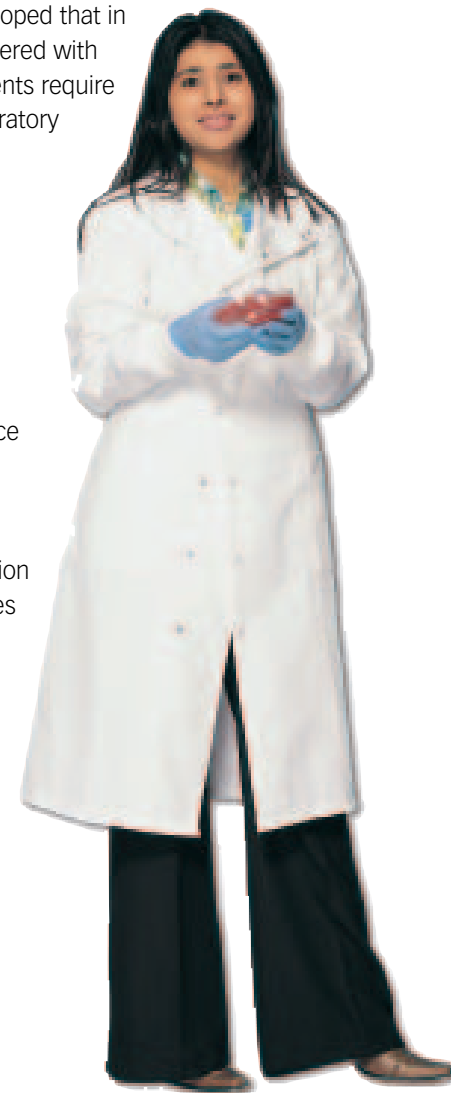
Web Links:

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

Institute of Biomedical Science -

www.ibms.org

Health Professions Council – www.hpc-uk.org



CREATIVE THERAPIST

Creative Arts Therapy is a generic term describing the three professions of Art Therapy, Music Therapy and Dramatherapy.

Art Therapy The Art Therapist uses art materials to encourage self-expression and reflection. The overall aim of its practitioners is to enable a client to effect change and growth on a personal level through the use of art materials in a safe and facilitating environment.

Music Therapy The Music Therapist provides a framework in which a mutual relationship is set up between client and therapist enabling changes to occur, both in the condition of the client and in the form the therapy takes. By using music creatively in a clinical setting the therapist seeks to establish an interaction, a shared musical experience leading to the pursuit of therapeutic goals which are determined by the therapist's understanding of the client's pathology and personal needs.

Dramatherapy The Dramatherapist's main focus is the intentional use of the healing aspects of drama and theatre in the therapeutic process, using action methods to facilitate creativity, imagination, learning, insight and growth. Using action to integrate mind and body facilitates insight when sometimes words cannot be found or expressed.

Skills Required:

Creative Arts Therapists have to be knowledgeable in music, art or drama. But as healthcare professionals, they also need to be able to relate to their clients and to help them to cope with the powerful emotions that are sometimes released during therapy. Creative Arts Therapists also need a high level of self-awareness, and their training involves personal therapy, appropriate clinical experience and experience of practical creative work. The Creative Arts Therapist's work is sometimes challenging and calls for skill and sensitivity; it follows that those who wish to pursue a career in creative therapy should be mature, flexible people. The Creative Arts Therapist requires a desire to help others be creative and an ability to co-operate with other professionals in various institutions.

Art Therapy Training Programme:

MSc Art Therapy

Queen's University Belfast postgraduate part-time three year programme

“As a dramatherapist I am continually challenged and rewarded facilitating people to overcome problems and reach their full potential in a creative way.”

Entry Qualifications:

Students will have a primary degree in for example education, the visual arts, psychology, nursing or social work.

Applicants must also meet the Health Professions Council (HPC) requirements which include that they must be at least 23 years of age.

Career Pathway:

In order to work as an Art Therapist in the NHS and Social Services, it is mandatory to possess the postgraduate Diploma in Art, Drama or Music Therapy or Art Psychotherapy. Art Therapists work in hospitals, clinics, day centres, schools, prisons and visit people in their homes. In Northern Ireland it is a growing profession.

Experienced practitioners may go on to a training, supervisory or management role, perhaps as head of an Arts Therapy Department. Some Arts Therapists go on to take further training in psychotherapy.

Professional Recognition:

The MSc in Art Therapy is approved by the Health Professions Council (HPC), which regulates the Allied Health Professions. The course is also approved as an accredited training programme by the British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT), which is the professional body for Art Therapists. Therefore, students successfully completing the MSc Art Therapy are eligible to apply for State Registration as an Art Therapist, the qualification required to practise in the United Kingdom. The course is run in association with the Northern Ireland Group for Art as Therapy (NIGAT).

How to Apply:

The application form is available from the Administrator, Graduate School of Education, Queen's University Belfast



CREATIVE THERAPIST continued

Web Links:

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

British Association of Art Therapists - www.baat.org

Northern Ireland Group for Art as Therapy (NIGAT) – www.geocities.com/nigat_uk

Dramatherapy Training Programme:

The following programmes in Dramatherapy are offered at various universities throughout the UK and are approved by the Health Professions Council (HPC) and the British Association of Dramatherapists (BAD). On completion graduates can apply for State Registration.

MA in Drama Therapy

National University of Ireland in Maynooth

Two-year part-time programme

Postgraduate Diploma in Dramatherapy

University College of Ripon & York St John

Two year part-time programme

Diploma in Dramatherapy

South Devon College of Arts & Technology

Two year part-time programme

Postgraduate Diploma in Dramatherapy

Institute of Dramatherapy at Roehampton

3 year part-time programme

Postgraduate Diploma in Drama & Movement Therapy

Central School of Speech & Drama Sesame Institute

One year full-time programme

Postgraduate Diploma in Dramatherapy

University of Manchester

3 year part-time programme

Diploma in Dramatherapy

City College, Manchester

Diploma in Dramatherapy

Salford College of Technology

Music Therapy Training Programme

The following programmes in Music Therapy are offered at various universities throughout the UK:

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Diploma in Music Therapy

One year full-time programme

Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Centre

Master of Music Therapy (MTT)

Two year full-time programme

Diploma in Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy

One year full-time programme

Entry Qualifications:

Contact should be made directly to the Universities for current entry requirements.

Professional Recognition:

These courses are approved by the Health Professions Council (HPC).

Web Links:

British Association of Dramatherapists – www.badth.ision.co.uk

Association of Professional Music Therapists – www.apmt.org

DENTIST

Dentists are healthcare professionals who are experts in the diagnosis and treatment of a range of problems that affect the mouth and teeth. They provide a wide range of services including care and treatment for oral diseases, preventative treatments, emergency services and provision of dental appliances.

The majority of Dentists will work in General Practice, however, many opportunities also exist within hospital and community settings. Dentists often manage a team of people encompassing Dental Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Dental Therapists, Dental Technicians and others, therefore, good social skills and administrative and managerial abilities are required.

Skills Required:

The capacity to learn and make sense of scientific knowledge; the drive to update and test your knowledge against experience; good manual dexterity; strong interpersonal skills; an ethical approach to people and the confidence to make your own decisions.

Training Programme:

Bachelor of Dental Surgery

Queen's University Belfast full-time five year programme

Entry Qualifications:

The grades required are likely to be AAA at A-Level + A (AS level) including A-level Chemistry.

GCE A-Levels: Chemistry plus one from Biology, Maths or Physics (NB only 1 mathematics subject can count at A-Level and General Studies is not acceptable)

GCE AS-Level: Biology is required and a non-science is recommended

GCSE: Mathematics and either Physics or Double Award Science if not offered to AS or A-Level

Career Pathway:

While the majority of graduates become general dental practitioners, a proportion pursue an academic career. As a result of this, Queen's graduates hold many senior university posts in the UK. Others are attracted by the prospect of a hospital career and apply for

“Enjoyable work, providing a wide variety of treatments - fillings, crowns, bridges, dentures, ortho, extractions. I get to meet lots of different people each day.”

house surgeon positions within hospitals in Northern Ireland. The much-changed nature of the Community Dental Service also represents a further interesting and rewarding opportunity for graduates.

Professional Recognition:

On successful completion of the five-year course, the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery (QUB) is immediately registrable with the General Dental Council and is a full qualification for dental practice. However, in line with the General Dental Council regulations, all dentists are required to join a Vocational Training (V.T.) scheme to undertake a further period of training of one year prior to becoming a principal in general dental practice.

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

General Dental Council – www.gdc-uk.org



PROFESSIONS COMPLEMENTARY TO DENTISTRY

This is a group of staff complementary to the work of dentists which includes Dental Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Dental Technicians and Dental Therapists.

Dental Nurse

A Dental Nurse works closely with the dentist, providing assistance throughout a patient's visit. This includes preparing the surgery, passing instruments, sterilising instruments and preparing fillings. The Dental Nurse maintains sterile conditions and ensures health and safety policy is adhered to, helping to record patient information and carry out stock control.

Dental Hygienist

Dental Hygienists are integral members of the dental team working to the prescription of a dentist, providing preventive, educational and therapeutic care to promote oral health and control oral diseases. Most hygienists work in general practice. Some may also work in hospitals and community dental services.

Dental Therapist

A Dental Therapist works as part of the dental team that provides clinical and educational care for children and adults in the community, including those with special needs. Dental Therapists carry out a range of straightforward treatments, including simple fillings or extractions. They also undertake a range of preventive procedures and provide oral health advice.

Dental Technician

Dental Technicians produce the dentures, crowns, bridges and braces that people may need in the course of dental treatment. The primary role of the Dental Technician is provision of a wide range of oral prostheses, replacement of missing teeth, use of crowns, bridges and implants, and the provision of prostheses to replace human tissue.

Skills Required:

You will need a high standard of work and personal commitment will be necessary. A team approach to healthcare is essential to provide an effective quality service. You will require a high level of manual dexterity, good eyesight and good physical health; be friendly and sympathetic with a calm, confident and reassuring manner; be able to relate

“Dental Nursing offers a career for those interested in people and opens up new challenges with continued professional development.”

well to a wide range of people. You should be able to work well in a team; have good organisational skills to manage the administrative aspects of the job.

Training Programmes

Dental Nurse:

National Certificate in Dental Nursing is a part-time evening programme at various further education institutes in Northern Ireland. The full-time programme at the School of Dentistry, RVH is at present under review.

Certificate in Oral Health Education is a part-time evening programme at:

Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education
Fermanagh College of Further Education
Upper Bann Institute of Further & Higher Education

Entry Qualifications:

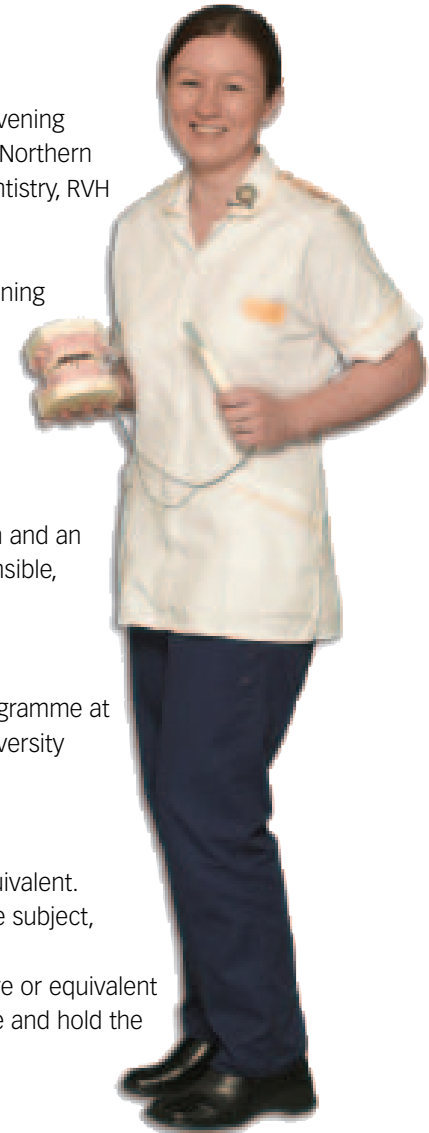
Applicants should have a good standard of education and an interest in working with people of all ages in a responsible, caring environment.

Dental Hygienist:

Diploma in Dental Hygiene is a full-time two year programme at the School of Dental Hygiene, College of Queen's University Belfast.

Entry Qualifications:

5 GCSE/GCE O-Level passes at Grades A-C or the equivalent. These should include English Language and a science subject, preferably Biology or Human Biology, and:
possess a) 2 GCSE A-Level passes at Grade E or above or equivalent qualifications or b) have experience as a dental nurse and hold the relevant nationally recognised certificate.



PROFESSIONS COMPLEMENTARY TO DENTISTRY continued

Dental Therapist:

The Diploma in Dental Therapy is 24 to 27 months of full-time study (longer courses give a qualification in dental hygiene). The programme runs at dental schools approved by the British Association of Dental Therapists (BADT).

Entry Qualifications:

You normally need five GCSEs (A-C) including English Language and either Biology or Human Biology and either two A-levels/three Highers at Grade C or above or a nationally-recognised dental nurse qualification.

Dental Technician:

The Foundation Degree in Dental Technology is a full-time three year programme at the School of Dentistry, Queen's University Belfast.

Entry Qualifications:

BTEC National Award in Dental Technology
(This is a one-year part-time programme which requires 4 GCSE/GCE O-Levels at Grade C or above including Mathematics and one Science subject.

How to Apply:

The training courses for Dental Nurse, Hygienist and Technician will be advertised in the local press. For Dental Therapy apply directly to a School of Dental Therapy.

Career Pathways:

A **Dental Nurse** has excellent permanent employment prospects in general dental practice and community clinics, hospitals and the opportunity to progress to a variety of post-qualification certificate courses, offered by the National Examination Board for Dental Nurses. These include Oral Health Education and Dental Sedation.

A **Dental Hygienist** can specialise in certain areas of care. Courses in oral health education will develop your ability to show others how to look after their teeth and you will also have the option of moving into teaching the next generation of hygienists.

A **Dental Therapist** can specialise in certain areas of care by taking courses in oral health education. Dental Therapists can go on to become teachers and practice managers.

A **Dental Technician** can proceed with further education with a BTEC Higher National Diploma and a degree course, BSc (Hons) in Dental Technology.

Professional Recognition:

The Dental Nurse may register with the voluntary National Register for Dental Nurses.

The Dental Hygienist students will be required to register as student members of the British Dental Hygienists' Association. Once they have qualified, Dental Hygienists have the right to apply for registration with the General Dental Council (GDC).

All Dental Therapists must register with the General Dental Council (GDC) before they can practise. To qualify for registration, they must have a Diploma in Dental Therapy or a combined Diploma in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy.

All Dental Technician students who attain a BTEC National Award are eligible to join the Dental Technicians Association (DTA) register and work as Dental Technicians.

Web Links:

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

General Dental Council – www.gdc-uk.org

British Dental Hygienists' Association – www.bdha.org.uk

British Association of Dental Therapists – www.badt.org.uk/schools

Dental Technicians Association – www.dta-uk.org

Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk

Belfast Institute of Further & Higher Education – www.belfastinstitute.ac.uk

East Down Institute of Further & Higher Education – www.edifhe.ac.uk

Fermanagh College of Further & Higher Education – www.fermanaghcoll.ac.uk

Newry & Kilkeel Institute of Further & Higher Education – www.nkifhe.ac.uk

North Down and Ards Institute of Further & Higher Education – www.ndai.ac.uk

Upper Bann Institute of Further & Higher Education – www.ubi.ac.uk

St Bartholomew's & the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry –

www.mds.qmw.ac.uk

University of Wales College of Medicine, Dental School –

www.uwcm.ac.uk/study/dentistry

University of Leeds, School of Dentistry – www.leeds.ac.uk/dental

University of Manchester, The Turner Dental School – www.den.man.ac.uk

The University of Sheffield, School of Clinical Dentistry – www.shef.ac.uk/dentalschool

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

The Clinical Psychologist aims to reduce psychological distress and to enhance and promote psychological well-being. They work with people with mental or physical health problems - which might include anxiety and depression, serious and enduring mental illness, adjustment to physical illness, neurological disorders, addictive behaviours, childhood behaviour disorders, personal and family relationships. They work with people throughout the life-span and with those with learning disabilities.

The work involves interaction with and receiving referrals from a wide range of other professionals including doctors, nurses, social workers and occupational therapists often as part of a multidisciplinary team. Clients are also referred by GPs although many psychology services will also accept self-referrals. Most Clinical Psychologists work in the NHS, but some do work privately and in other agencies.

Skills Required:

Essential skills include good interpersonal skills; enquiring mind; interest in all aspects of human behaviour; desire to help people to overcome personal difficulties; maturity and objectivity when carrying out programme of assessment and therapy.

Training Programme:

Postgraduate Doctoral level courses (three years in duration) are required in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. At present this training is provided, in Northern Ireland, through the School of Psychology at Queen's University.

Entry Qualifications:

A good Honours degree (usually a 2:1) in Psychology. Frequently entrants have post-graduate experience in research, as an Assistant Psychologist and/or possess post-graduate qualifications.

BSc Hons Psychology

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time three-year programme

BSc Single, Major & Joint Hons Psychology

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

“ I have a highly stimulating, flexible and personally rewarding career that is centred on people and groups and improving and maximising well-being. ”

Career Pathway:

Following qualification graduates can expect to work and further develop in the profession for some six years before being eligible to proceed to Consultant level. At that level clinical psychologists might expect to become Heads of Speciality (e.g. Adult Mental Health, Child & Adolescent etc) and perhaps ultimately overall Head of a Psychology Service.

Professional Recognition:

The British Psychological Society is the professional body that accredits both undergraduate degrees and training courses. In addition this organisation sets the standards for professional registration.

How to Apply:

Places on the Doctoral Training Programme at Queen's University are advertised in the local press around February of each year of intake.

Web Links:

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

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

British Psychological Society – www.bps.org.uk

Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk



DIETITIAN

Dietitians are uniquely qualified to translate scientific information about food into practical dietary advice. As well as providing impartial advice about nutrition and health, Dietitians also advise about food related problems and treat disease and ill health. Many Dietitians work in the National Health Service and may work in one or more specialist areas eg diabetes, children's health, cancer, whilst others work with people in the community. They are a key part of the healthcare team.

The Dietitian's overall aim is to educate patients to make informed food choices required for the dietary management of their condition and to ensure nutritional needs are met.

Dietitians assess patients according to their specific needs, draw up nutritional care plans based on those needs and counsel patients about diet. They work closely with patients who need therapeutic diets, such as those with kidney disease, liver problems, food allergy, eating disorders or diabetes. They also help to care for people who, because of illness, injury or surgery, need liquid food given through a tube.

Dietitians also have a major role in nutrition and health promotion initiatives. They work in partnership with community groups and network with other agencies. Community dietitians provide nutrition training for primary care and community workers. They promote good nutrition by developing and implementing nutrition strategies and policies, produce nutrition resources and work with the media.

Skills Required:

The work demands a high level of knowledge and expertise. Your training will ensure that you have the necessary clinical skills. However, you must also be able to explain complex issues in simple language, to be able to motivate clients and be sensitive to the different cultural issues and attitudes surrounding food.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Dietetics

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

PgD/MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics

University of Ulster postgraduate full-time two year programme

“ The key skills required to becoming a dietician include good team player, excellent communication skills, nutritional knowledge, time management and the ability to use your own initiative. ”

Entry Qualifications:

BSc Hons Dietetics: A minimum of 300 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades BB. A-levels in two science subjects, preferably including Chemistry are required.

PgD/MSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics: A First Science degree usually needs to contain an appropriate amount of human physiology and biochemistry.

Career Pathway:

You may work in a hospital or community setting and could go on to specialise in a clinical area, such as oncology, paediatrics, renal, diabetes or to work with particular groups, such as elderly people or those with learning difficulties. Teaching or health education are also options, or you could take on a management role, eventually being responsible for controlling a budget and planning and marketing a dietetic service. There is a recognised promotional pathway within the Northern Ireland Health & Personal Social Services (HPSS).

Professional Recognition:

Eligibility for State Registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) in Dietetics is obtained on graduation following satisfactory completion of the course, which includes the hospital dietetics placement and subsequent examinations.

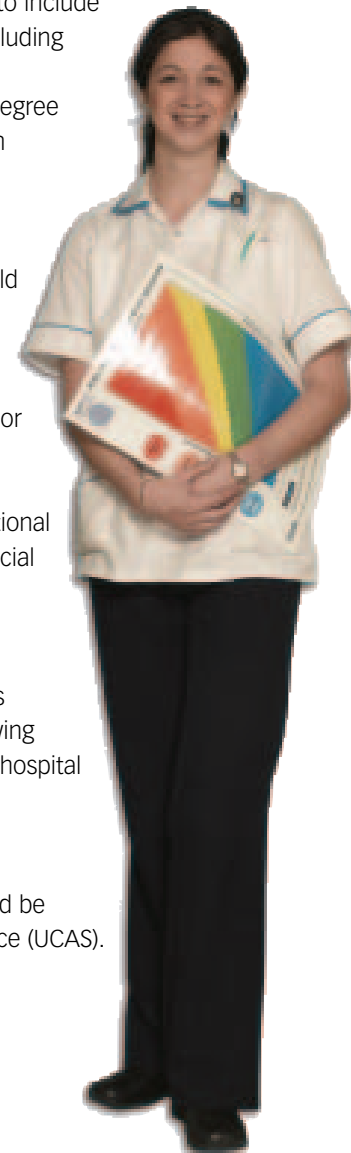
How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

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

British Dietetic Association – www.bda.uk.com



“ The Health Service will offer you a broad, exciting, and challenging career in ICT. ”

INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY (ICT) OFFICER

Information Technology is an important technological area in which a wide variety of occupational roles appear. It embraces people who can be found working in the following range of Information and Communication Technology settings in healthcare:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) management and system development; Project Management (ICT); Strategic and Business Management of ICT; IT Practitioners to include Web Designers, Hardware and Software Engineers; Helpdesk support; Voice and Data Networks; IT Trainer and/or Systems Training; ICT Security and Confidentiality; Departmental system management e.g. Pathology Laboratories. For many of the roles within ICT, it is an advantage to have a degree, or an HND or the equivalent in computing.

Skills Required:

Interpersonal and problem solving skills are particularly important in successful system development.

Training Programme:

BSc Honours Degree in Computer Science

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

BSc Hons Computing

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

Queen's University Belfast - 3 A-Levels including GCE A-Level in Mathematics or Computer Science or Physics or Chemistry or Latin or ICT or VCE Double Award ICT + GCSE Mathematics. Combinations of A and AS Levels will also be considered.

University of Ulster - You must hold at least five GCSE passes (or equivalent) at grade C or above, one of which must be in English and at least a grade B in Mathematics. Entry to the course may be through one of many routes, such as 'A' levels (including 'AS' Levels and Vocational 'A' Levels), Irish Leaving Certificate, National Certificate, or National Diploma. 'A' Level - a minimum of 260 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades BC.

Career Pathway:

On graduating with an Hons degree in Computer Science and a year's experience, students are able to choose from a host of rewarding and challenging careers in the Northern Ireland Health & Personal Social Services (HPSS). The majority of graduates take up posts associated with software design and implementation. Some embark on management accountancy and finance careers, while many work within ICT support teams.

Graduates from the BSc Hons Computing course will have many career opportunities available to them, in developing software, as project managers, in systems analysis, in planning and technical management, or information management and database environments. There are also many and varied opportunities for postgraduate study in computing or a related area.

Professional Recognition:

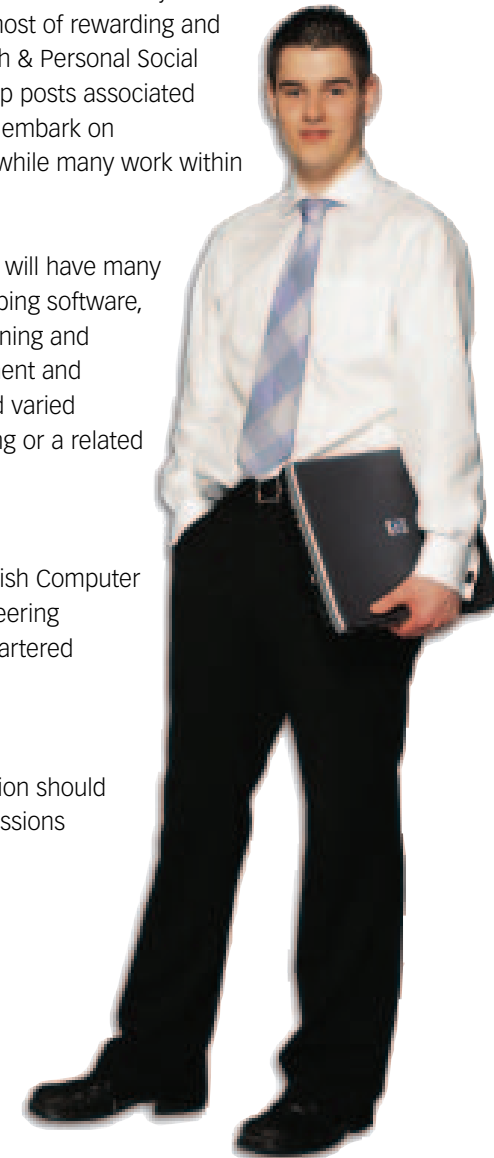
The Hons degrees are fully accredited by the British Computer Society, which is a nominating body of the Engineering Council. Membership could ultimately lead to Chartered Engineer status.

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

The University of Ulster – www.ulster.ac.uk
Queen's University Belfast – www.qub.ac.uk
British Computer Society – www.bcs.org



“ The importance of work carried out by MLA staff is crucial to patient service delivery and very rewarding. ”

MEDICAL LABORATORY ASSISTANT (MLA)

Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) are clinical support staff, they work in pathology laboratories contributing to the process of diagnoses and disease treatment.

A Medical Laboratory Assistant's main role is as support to Biomedical Scientists. Their work is often varied and can involve a variety of laboratory skills; their work may involve: making up chemical solutions; responsibility for labelling and sorting of tissue samples; disposal of chemical or biological waste; maintaining stocks or consumable items; phlebotomy.

MLAs can specialise in one area of their work; however, many often have the opportunity to work in a range of different aspects of pathology and can expand their responsibilities and skills by training and supervising other staff. Areas MLAs can work in include: Biochemistry; Histology; Immunology; Haematology; Transfusion science; Cytology.

Skills Required:

Medical Laboratory Assistants need a responsible and mature approach to the work; to be good at practical tasks; accurate in their work with good attention to detail; the ability to concentrate for long periods; reassure and put people at their ease; and work as part of a team.

Training Programme:

Trainees are given mostly on-the-job training, starting with general safety instructions and how the job role fits in the day to day working of the laboratory. Trainees then move on to specialised individual training. MLAs also have the opportunity to work towards NVQ Level 2.

Entry Qualifications:

The minimum level of qualification required is five O-Levels.

Career Pathway:

MLAs are not State Registered, but can enhance their working lives with training opportunities to NVQ Levels 2 and 3.

There is a single grade for all Medical Laboratory Assistants but employers may award extra salary scale points for posts that require additional skills and responsibilities.

How to Apply:

Vacancies are advertised in local papers, on the Belfast Telegraph website, Job Centres or by contacting the personnel officer or head biomedical scientist at a laboratory where you would like to work.

Web Links:

Institute of Biomedical Science – www.ibms.org
Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk
Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com



MEDICAL SECRETARY

Medical secretaries work in hospitals and community settings. In hospitals, they work for a consultant or a group of consultants within one of a range of medical specialties that include cardiology, psychiatry, neurology and paediatrics. In General Practitioner surgeries, they work for one or for a group of doctors.

The duties are usually wide-ranging and the main responsibilities will include dealing with a consultant's or GP's correspondence, organising his or her diary, and liaising with healthcare professionals and administrative colleagues. Medical secretaries have a lot of contact with patients and often handle their queries and concerns.

Skills Required:

Medical secretaries should be well organised, have good communication skills, good IT skills, communicate effectively with a range of people, pay attention to detail and accuracy, work as part of a team and on their own initiative, be confident and be able to deal with patients and relatives in a helpful, sympathetic and confidential way.

Training Programmes:

There are a wide variety of secretarial courses in colleges throughout Northern Ireland. Examples of courses available are the LCCI Diploma in Secretarial Administration (one year, full-time) and the Executive Secretary's Diploma with IT (Level 3) (two years, full-time study).

Entry Qualifications:

Candidates should have some GCSEs Grades A-C including English Language and Mathematics. Essential criteria may also include OCR/RSA Stage II Typing or Word Processing (Parts 1 & 2) or equivalent; OCR/RSA Stage II Audio Typing or equivalent; recent relevant secretarial experience; and shorthand or one year's experience in minute-taking.

Career Pathway:

Promotion can be gained from secretary to other administrative grades and posts including office management or GP practice administration.

“ I am involved in the stages of major developmental projects. Each day is different bringing new and exciting challenges and allows me to utilise the secretarial skills I have developed. ”

How to Apply:

Directly to Trusts in response to job recruitment adverts in local papers, on the Belfast Telegraph website and through Job Centres. Consult the prospectus of your local college of further/higher education for full details of available courses.

Web Links:

Further Education in NI - www.femeansbusiness.com
Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk
Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

Occupational Therapists treat and rehabilitate people with physical and mental health conditions, through specific selected activities, for the purpose of enabling individuals who are temporarily or permanently disabled to reach their maximum level of function and independence in all aspects of life.

Occupational Therapists work in hospitals and various community settings and they may visit clients and their carers at home to monitor their progress.

Skills Required:

The range of clients and different individual problems mean that you will need to be practical, adaptable and creative. You will also need good communication skills – and you should enjoy working in partnership, both with other healthcare professionals and with patients' families and carers.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Occupational Therapy

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 340 UCAS Tariff Points (AAB) at GCE A-level.
Grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

Career Pathway:

Occupational Therapists work with young children, adolescents, adults and older people. The profession offers opportunities for career development and there is a recognised promotional pathway within the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services. You will be able to choose from many different posts for your first job which will give you the chance to work in a range of different specialties.

Professional Recognition:

Students who successfully complete the course will be eligible for membership of the British Association of Occupational Therapists and for the State Registration by the Health Professions Council (HPC) which is essential for employment in the HPSS. The course is also recognised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

“ Working as an Occupational Therapist gives me job satisfaction through promoting and maximising a person’s functional independence in their activities of daily living. This includes everything from self-care to work and leisure. ”

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

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

The College of Occupational Therapists – www.cot.co.uk

The World Federation of Occupational Therapists –

www.wfot.org.au

British Association of Occupational Therapists –

www.baot.org.uk



OPTOMETRIST

Optometrists are health specialists trained to examine the eyes to detect signs of injury, disease, abnormality and defects in vision. They also fit spectacles or contact lenses, give advice on visual problems and have the responsibility for the detection of any ocular disease or abnormality. A career as an optometrist will put you at the front line of vision care and every day will bring fresh challenges and new opportunities to care for your patients' eyesight. Your patients will range from young children to elderly pensioners and each will have his or her own individual needs.

Skills Required:

Excellent social and interpersonal skills are vital to enable you to deal with people from every walk of life. Business and management skills are also needed to run a busy practice in the community or in a hospital department.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Optometry

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time three year programme

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 340 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades AAB (to include grades AA in two GCE science subjects – Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Mathematics). Grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

Career Pathway:

Graduates may choose from a wide variety of interesting, challenging and rewarding careers.

Professional Recognition:

The course is approved by the General Optical Council. Graduates of courses recognised by the General Optical Council are eligible to undertake a pre-registration year during which they work in a registered optometry practice or hospital. Following this year, graduates take the professional examination for membership of the College of Optometrists. If successful, they will be registered to practice.

“ I find my job very interesting as I see a wide range of different patients with different eye conditions from young babies to elderly patients. ”

How to Apply:

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

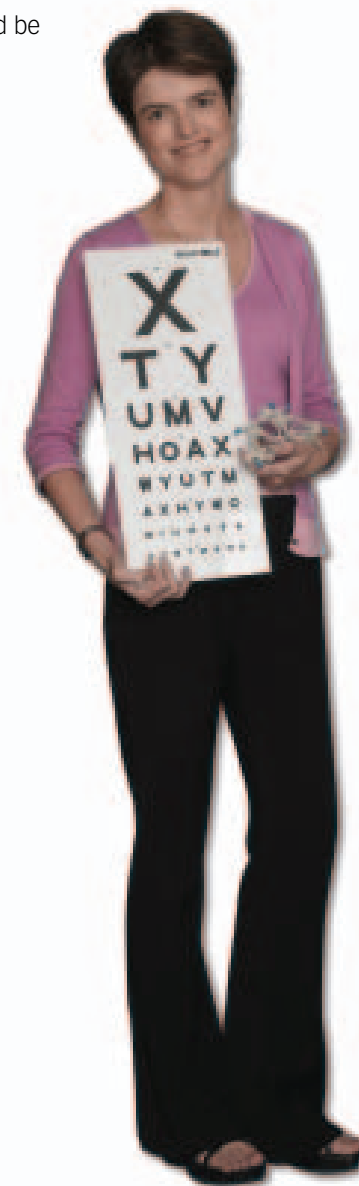
Web Links:

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

General Optical Council – www.optical.org

The College of Optometrists –

www.college-optometrists.org



PHARMACIST

Pharmacists are experts in medicines and their use and practise mainly in community pharmacies and hospitals. They advise medical and nursing staff on the use of drugs, as well as advising patients on how to manage their medicines to ensure optimal treatment.

Hospital pharmacists are responsible for the purchase, manufacture, dispensing, quality testing, supply and use of the medicines in their hospital. They work closely with medical and nursing staff to ensure patients receive the most appropriate treatment, and provide help and advice to patients in all aspects of their medicines.

Community pharmacists, working from high street, local and rural pharmacies, use their detailed knowledge to ensure that medicines ordered on doctors' prescriptions or bought over the counter are correctly and safely supplied, with appropriate patient counselling on use, adverse side effects, etc. They also act as readily accessible health advisors to the general public.

Skills Required:

As well as your scientific knowledge, you must also be able to work with great accuracy and attention to detail, even under pressure. You will also need good communication skills to be able to liaise with others in the healthcare team and also to advise and reassure patients.

Training Programme:

MPharm Hons

Queen's University Belfast undergraduate full-time four year programme. The MPharm degree is also offered at 15 other schools of pharmacy in GB see www.rpsgb.org.uk

Entry Qualifications:

Either three GCE A-Levels at grades ABB plus one GCE/VCE AS Level at grade A (different subject) or three GCE A-Levels at grades AAB.

A-Levels should include Chemistry plus at least one from Biology, Mathematics or Physics. If Biology is not offered at A-Level, candidates must have either GCSE Biology or Double Award Science at grade C or above. Students are strongly advised to study A-Level Biology.

“ I have direct contact with patients and work closely with other pharmacists and professionals such as doctors, nurses, dietitians etc. in a team which strives to provide patients with the best quality of care. On a lighter note, no two days are ever the same! ”

Career Pathway:

A variety of options is available to graduates. The majority take up places in Community Pharmacies and some will eventually own businesses, others may be employed as pharmacists within the HPSS.

Professional Recognition:

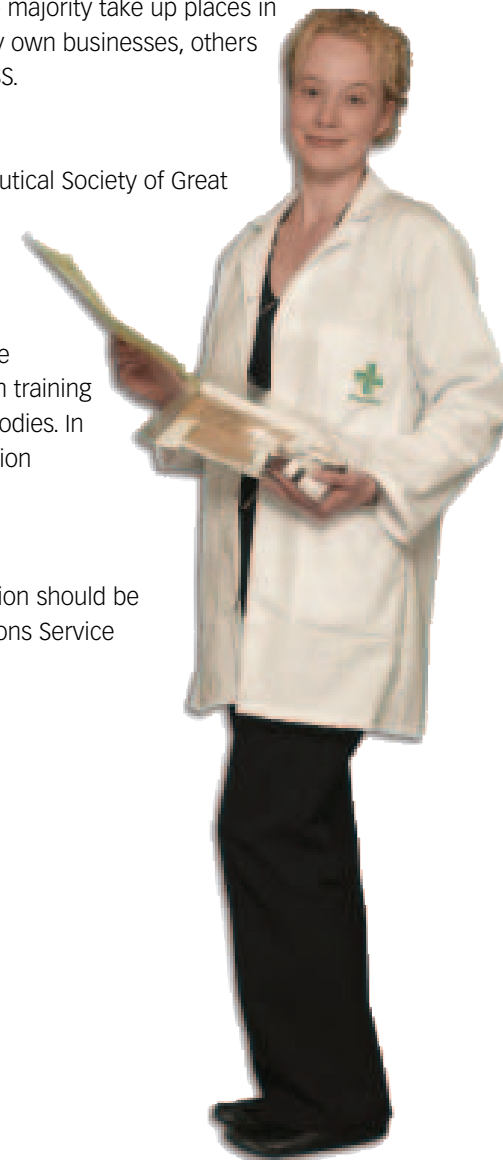
The course is recognised by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland. Following successful completion of the degree course, all graduates intending to register as pharmacists in order to practise their profession are required to complete satisfactorily a one-year period of pre-registration training under conditions approved by the professional bodies. In addition students are required to pass a registration examination.

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

Queen's University of Belfast – www.qub.ac.uk
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain – www.rpsgb.org.uk
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland – www.dotpharmacy.co.uk/psni



PHYSIOTHERAPIST

Physiotherapists are experts in movement, from the way we move our backs or limbs, to the way we breathe. It is an enabling profession, restoring function and activity, and preventing illness and injury, giving people the independence to remain in work and in their own homes.

Patients are normally referred to a Physiotherapist by a doctor. The Physiotherapist assesses them and decides upon the most appropriate treatment. This treatment might involve exercise, movement, hydrotherapy, electrotherapy and techniques such as massage and manipulation. Physiotherapists play a large role in rehabilitating people after illness or accidents. Health education, aimed at preventing disease and injury, is also an important part of the work.

Skills Required:

Being responsible for assessing and treating your own caseload of patients demands a high level of knowledge and expertise. Your rigorous training will ensure that you have the necessary clinical skills. Personal qualities such as good communication skills, empathy and the ability to work as part of a team are also essential.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Physiotherapy

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 360 UCAS Tariff Points, to include grades AAA for GCE applicants offering one relevant science subject; or a minimum of 340 UCAS Tariff Points, to include grades AAB for GCE applicants offering two science subjects (with AA in the two science subjects). Relevant GCE science subjects are Chemistry, Biology, Physics or Mathematics. Grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

Career Pathway:

Once you have had some clinical experience, you could specialise in any one of a range of areas, such as neurology, orthopaedics, obstetrics or working with older people. There is a recognised promotional pathway within the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services.

“ I am glad I chose physiotherapy as my career. I really believe in what I do, I know it works and I get great satisfaction from seeing the improvement I make to the quality of patients’ lives, and from the respect I get from other medical colleagues. ”

Professional Recognition:

Graduates of the course are eligible for State Registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) and membership of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

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

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapists –

www.csp.org.uk



PODIATRIST

Podiatrists specialise in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of disease and conditions affecting the feet and lower limbs. Their training enables them to assess the vascular, neurological and orthopaedic status of the patient's lower limbs. Following assessment, treatment is focused on relieving symptoms and maintaining functional independence.

After starting your career in general clinics where you will work with patients of all ages and medical conditions - Podiatrists play an important role in supporting older people to stay mobile and therefore independent - you could specialise in particular aspects of podiatry such as Biomechanics (assessing and treating musculo/skeletal abnormalities) or working with patients with more complex medical problems. Podiatrists are increasingly becoming involved in foot surgery.

Skills Required:

Being responsible for assessing and treating your own caseload of patients demands a high level of knowledge and expertise. Your training will ensure that you have the necessary clinical skills. However, personal qualities such as good communication skills and a sympathetic manner are also essential.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Podiatry

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time three year programme

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 240 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades BC (to include grade B in one GCE science subject). Grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

Career Pathway:

You may choose to specialise in a particular area of practice - increasingly, Podiatrists are involved in contributing to the care of patients who are considered "at risk" because of their medical condition. You could therefore choose to specialise in Diabetes, Rheumatology, Renal, Sports Medicine, working with children (Podopaediatrics) or take additional qualifications to be a Podiatric Surgeon.

“ I have really enjoyed working as a community podiatrist as it allowed me to build up experience and to work with other professionals such as District Nurses, GPs, Health Visitors etc. ”

Teaching or research are also options.

You could also move into management either within podiatry services or general management. As head of a podiatry service you would be responsible both for a team of staff and managing a budget.

Professional Recognition:

The course will be evaluated for accreditation by the Joint Quality Assurance Committee of the Chiropodists' Board of the Health Professions Council (HPC) and the Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists. On completion of the course students will be eligible for State Registration.

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

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

Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists – www.scpod.org

Health Professions Council – www.hpc-uk.org



SOCIAL WORKER

Social workers operate at the very frontline of society's efforts to support the needs of communities, families and individuals. They provide services for children, families, older people, people with mental health problems, physical or learning disabilities, sensory impairment, those who experience homelessness, and those whose lives are adversely affected by drugs, alcohol and HIV/AIDS. At times they may also exercise formal legal powers, for example to protect children who are at risk, to support people with mental ill health, or in the rehabilitation of offenders.

Skills Required:

Social work often involves working with vulnerable people in sensitive situations. A social worker needs a range of personal qualities such as patience, determination and the ability to help people face painful and distressing problems. They may need to support service users to deal with racism and other forms of discrimination. Social workers must be open-minded and prepared to examine and even change their own attitudes and possible prejudices.

Training Programme:

The Northern Ireland Social Care Council has agreed that, from 2004/05, all social work training courses will be at honours degree level. A new three-year honours degree, the BSc Hons Social Work, will be introduced in September 2004.

BSc Hons Social Work

Queens University Belfast and University of Ulster (Magee) undergraduate full-time three year programme

Entry Qualifications:

University of Ulster: A level requirements are likely to be in the range of grades BBB at A-level (300 UCAS Tariff Points) or equivalent. Queen's University Belfast: the minimum requirements will normally be five GCSE passes at grade C or better, to include English and Mathematics, along with three GCE A-levels or equivalent. There are no subject requirements at A-level. It is estimated that the grades required will be in the region of BBC/ABB although a final decision will depend on the demand for places. Vocational A-levels (AVCE) will be acceptable in lieu of GCE A-levels. Other qualifications such as HNC, HND and Access and Foundation courses will also be considered.

“ I really enjoy my social work role as each day brings something new and challenging. As a Social Worker I work with children, teenagers and older people in order to support them. ”

Career Pathway:

There are many career development opportunities leading to specialist posts and to the highest levels of management within statutory and voluntary social services agencies.

Social workers practise in a wide range of settings, including the community, residential care, day care, hospitals, prisons, schools and health centres. Health and Social Services Trusts in Northern Ireland, which deliver statutory sector services on behalf of the four area Health and Social Services Boards employ the majority of social workers. Social workers are also employed in many areas within the voluntary sector.

Professional Recognition:

Those who successfully complete the degree will be offered and required to complete an assessed year in employment before being registered as qualified social workers by the Northern Ireland Social Care Council. They will be salaried during this year.

The BSW degree, (followed by the assessed year in employment in Northern Ireland only), will be the professional qualification for social workers in Northern Ireland and the rest of the United Kingdom. The degree will also be recognised in the Republic of Ireland and the rest of the European Union.

How to Apply:

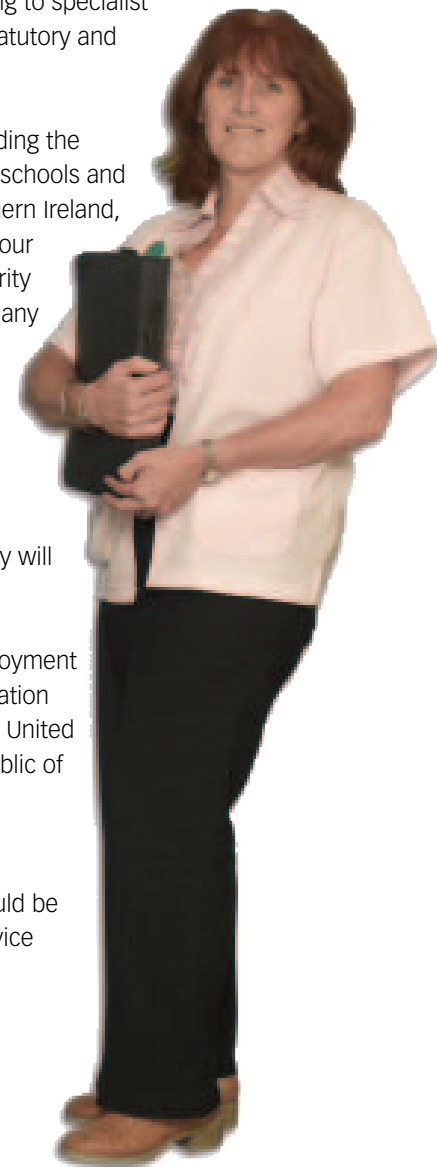
For undergraduate full-time programme, application should be made through Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Web Links:

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

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

Northern Ireland Social Care Council - www.niscc.info



SOCIAL CARE ASSISTANT

Social work assistants work in a supporting role with social workers in hospital and community settings. Assistants work on a variety of social work tasks under the supervision of a qualified social worker, sometimes liaising with other care and health professionals. Social work assistants work with a diverse range of clients including children, the elderly and people with mental health problems.

Job titles vary and include social service assistant, community care support worker, home care officer, family support worker and dementia support worker. The nature of the job varies according to the setting, but typical work activities are likely to include: advising clients about available resources; participating in multidisciplinary teams and meetings; setting up appointments; following up enquiries; carrying out reviews; liaising with service users, relatives and colleagues; visiting clients at home (community setting); assessing clients' needs and organising post-discharge domestic or personal care (hospital setting); keeping abreast of changes in legislation; writing up reports; keeping and updating patient records.

Skills Required:

Candidates need to be committed, patient, flexible and capable of coping with traumatic situations. It is also essential to possess excellent teamworking, interpersonal, communication, decision-making and organisational skills.

Entry and Training:

Applicants must be over 18 years old. No formal academic qualifications are required. However it is desirable to have an NVQ in Care or Management or a Diploma in Domiciliary Care Management or a Certificate/Diploma in management studies. Previous relevant experience is essential eg. working with children, elderly, disabled or other relevant groups. Social Work Assistants are usually trained on-the-job by working along with experienced staff. NVQ training in Care at level 2, 3 or 4 is available, supported and encouraged within the workforce.

Career Pathway:

Social Work Assistants are employed by local social services departments, the voluntary sector and by private organisations. Experience in this work would be excellent preparation for people who wished to become Social Workers.

“ Interesting, rewarding, each day different, working in a multi-disciplinary setting, involves assessing patients for safe and effective discharge. ”

How to Apply:

Directly to Trusts in response to job recruitment adverts in the local press, on the Belfast Telegraph website and through Job Centres.

Web Links:

Northern Ireland Social Care Council -

www.niscc.info

British Association of Social Workers (BASW)

www.basw.co.uk

Belfast Telegraph –

www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk

Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPIST

Speech and Language Therapists provide specialist assessment, diagnosis and treatment for children and adults with communication and/or swallowing problems. Their work covers the areas of speech, language, voice, fluency, swallowing, reading and writing skills and includes teaching alternative and augmentative methods of communication.

Communication is vital to every aspect of our lives. Speech and Language Therapists work with people of all ages who have a wide range of communication difficulties. These include the production and appropriate use of speech sounds, understanding of spoken language and appropriate use of language. Some people may have a specific difficulty such as a stammer or a voice problem. Therapists are also involved in working with people who have difficulties feeding, chewing and/or swallowing.

Skills Required:

The clinical knowledge and expertise required is considerable and you will need an aptitude for academic study as well as for problem solving. You must also be able to build good relationships with clients who might be severely impaired and distressed. An ability to work well with other professionals and with clients' carers and family is also important.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Speech and Language Therapy

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 360 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades AAA to include one A-level from English*, Mathematics or Science (which can include geography and psychology).

*A modern foreign language is acceptable as an alternative if the above 3 subjects are passed at GCSE level.

Applicants must meet the English language requirements for entry to all UK Speech and Language Therapy courses as set by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists/Health Professions Council. Currently, this is a score of 7.5 on the International English Language Testing Score (IELTS), with no individual score below 7.

“ Working with children and adults with a wide range of communication problems brings me into contact with so many people and there is so much variety that I find the job rewarding and stimulating. ”

Career Pathway:

Most newly qualified Speech and Language Therapists work with a general caseload for at least a year, usually with both adults and children. You may then choose a particular group of clients or type of clinical work in which to specialise. There is a recognised promotional pathway within the Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services.

Professional Recognition:

On successful completion of the course, all graduates are eligible to apply for the Certificate to Practise from the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and for State Registration to the Health Professions Council (HPC).

How to Apply:

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

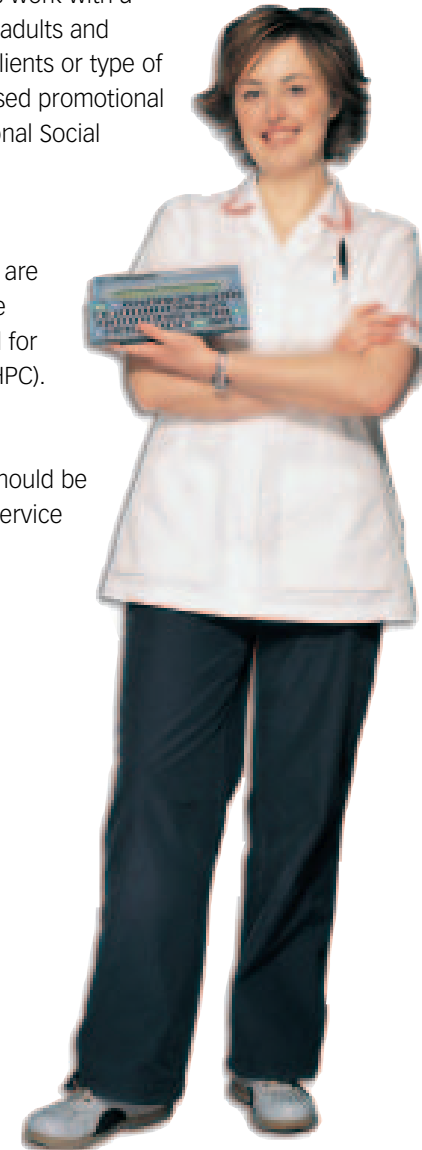
Web Links:

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

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists -

www.rcslt.org

Health Professions Council – www.hpc-uk.org



“ I love working in the hospital environment where the team works together to provide services for the patient. ”

ADMINISTRATION AND CLERICAL OFFICER

Clerical officers control the flow of patient records and appointments within the healthcare setting. Their duties can include establishing files for new patients, booking appointments and gathering health statistics. They work in a variety of locations in both community and hospital settings.

Skills Required:

The job requires someone who is well organised and conscientious, reliable, efficient and methodical. You will need to have teamworking skills and the flexibility to work on a range of different tasks. Good communication skills are also required in dealing with patients, clients, staff and other agencies. The ability to maintain confidentiality is essential.

Training Programme:

Most training takes place on the job, under supervision. Clerical officers can take qualifications offered by the Institute of Health Record Information and Management (IHRIM).

There are a wide variety of clerical courses in colleges throughout Northern Ireland. Courses are available both on a full-time and a part-time basis. The most popular and sought after qualifications are those gained from BTEC, NVQ and GNVQ courses.

Entry Qualifications:

Candidates should have up to 5 GCSEs Grades A-C including English and Maths or NVQ Level II Administration or equivalent qualifications. Posts in specialised areas may state as essential criteria, one or more of the following: (a) GCSEs in particular subjects; (b) typing skills/qualifications; (c) receptionist experience; (d) computer/keyboard skills/experience.

Career Pathway:

With experience clerical officers can progress along a promotional pathway within a variety of positions in finance, human resources, information technology, estates services, health records, regional supplies, GP surgeries, catering and hotel services, planning departments and also as personal assistants and into supervisory and management posts.

Professional Recognition:

GCSEs, NVQs and GNVQs represent national standards recognised by employers throughout the country.

The BTEC National Diploma is widely recognised by universities, as it is equivalent to 3 A Levels, and the BTEC Certificate is a perfect way to enter the workplace, as this qualification is widely recognised by employers.

How to Apply:

Directly to Trusts in response to job recruitment adverts in the local press, on the Belfast Telegraph website and through Job Centres.

Consult the prospectus of your local college of further/higher education for full details of available courses.

Web Links:

Further Education in NI – www.femeansbusiness.com

Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk

Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com



DOCTOR

Doctors are responsible for the diagnosis, care and treatment of illnesses, diseases, infections and well-being of people. They may work in a variety of settings such as in a hospital or as a family doctor (GP). Hospital doctors can go on to specialise in particular areas such as histopathology, psychiatry and paediatrics, or various branches of surgery such as cardiothoracic or trauma and orthopaedics.

Learning to be a doctor involves a long and demanding course of study. It can take a minimum of 9 years to train as a general practitioner (GP) and 12 years before a doctor is suitably qualified to apply for a post as a hospital consultant.

Within the practice of medicine itself, there are over 60 different specialties; your medical training will give you the opportunity to discover which appeals to you most.

Broadly speaking, the specialties fall into the following groups:

Medical specialties cover most of the conditions for which people are admitted to hospital. Roles range from accident and emergency medicine to clinical genetics. Many specialties focus on particular organs such as the heart (cardiology) or disease processes such as cancers (oncology).

Surgical specialties Surgeons specialise in operating on particular parts of the body, or to address specific injuries, diseases or degenerative conditions.

General Practice GPs (General Practitioners) are the first point of contact with the health service for most people. They provide a complete spectrum of care within the local community: dealing with problems that often combine physical, psychological and social components. They increasingly work in teams with other professions, helping patients to take responsibility for their own health.

Paediatrics and Child Health Paediatricians diagnose and provide treatment for babies, infants, children and adolescents who have medical problems. They are also experts in normal child growth, development and feeding.

“ Medicine offers something to suit everyone interested in helping their community and making a difference. The rewards repay many times the hard work and commitment. ”

Obstetrics and Gynaecology Obstetricians and gynaecologists give specialised medical treatment and advice related to the female reproductive system. Obstetrics involves caring for women during pregnancy, particularly if this is complicated.

Pathology Pathologists specialise in the detection of disease through the use of a variety of investigative techniques. Their work is vital in finding an accurate and timely diagnosis - improving the prospects for successful treatment. Those involved in infectious diseases play an important role in identifying sources of disease and reducing the possible risks of further spread.

Psychiatry Psychiatrists specialise in mental ill health: a priority in today's health service, with new services being developed to support acute and community care.

Skills Required:

Medicine includes a wide range of people, working in very varied roles. Some personal qualities you may need to draw on include a concern for people, an enquiring mind, an interest in people, a rational approach, an open mind, imagination, ability to handle pressure, hard work, determination and decisiveness.

Training Programme:

Degrees: MB, BCH, BAO
Queen's University Belfast School of Medicine
undergraduate full-time five year programme



DOCTOR continued

Entry Qualifications:

The grades required are likely to be AAA at A-Level + A (AS level) including A-level Chemistry. A maximum of 6 VCE units will be counted.

GCE A-Levels: Chemistry + one from Biology, Maths or Physics (NB only 1 mathematics subject will be counted at A-Level and General Studies is not acceptable).

GCE AS Level: Biology is required and a non-science is recommended

GCSE: Mathematics and either Physics or Double Award Science if not offered to AS or A-Level.

The GCSE threshold varies from year to year according to supply and demand.

Career Pathway:

On completion of registration, the graduate is ready to undertake further postgraduate training in his or her chosen area of interest. The medical degree provides the basis for opportunities in Primary Care, Hospital Medicine, Community Medicine, Academic Medicine and other areas of practice. Postgraduate training in Northern Ireland is organised by the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA).

Professional Recognition:

Possession of the degree of MB BCh BAO entitles the holder to be provisionally registered with the General Medical Council. To conform with the regulations laid down by the General Medical Council, all graduates who intend to practise in the United Kingdom are required to spend 12 months in approved Pre-Registration House Officer posts. Such posts in Medicine and Surgery and related specialities are available in Northern Ireland but training posts elsewhere may be acceptable to the University. On satisfactory completion of this Pre-Registration year, doctors are fully registered with the General Medical Council. A further period of postgraduate medical training is dependent on the area of medical practice and usually extends from 4-8 years.

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

General Medical Council - www.gmc-uk.org

British Medical Association - www.bma.org.uk

NIMDTA - www.nimdta.com

HEALTHCARE ASSISTANT

Healthcare assistants, also known as clinical support workers, therapy assistants and nursing auxiliaries, support the work of nurses or allied health professionals such as podiatrists, occupational therapists, orthotists, dietitians, physiotherapists, radiographers, and speech and language therapists assisting with treatment or looking after patients' comfort and well-being. They are employed in many areas in the hospital and community settings, including mental health services, children's services and learning disability.

The exact role will depend on the area in which you work. For example, therapy assistants in physiotherapy might show patients how to use mobility aids and work on exercises with them. On wards, nursing auxiliaries monitor patients' condition by taking temperatures, pulse and respiration. You would help patients with washing, feeding and mobilisation. Specific tasks and care programmes are agreed with the assessing professional and carried out as prescribed by the supporting assistant. Progress reports are discussed, agreed and jointly signed by the supervising professional.



Entry Qualifications:

There are no national minimum requirements, but you will probably be expected to have a good general education and/or work experience.

Career Pathway:

Healthcare Assistants and Auxiliary Nurses may have the opportunity to obtain an NVQ 3 qualification in care. Often, obtaining NVQ 2 will lead to the person having more responsibility in terms of the role they are fulfilling. An NVQ Level 3 will meet the minimum entry requirements for entry into undergraduate nurse training.

“ Healthcare professionals provide a vital role in the management and implementation of health and social care programmes by adding quality to life and having time to listen. ”

How to Apply:

Directly to Trusts in response to job recruitment adverts in the local press and the Belfast Telegraph and through Job Centres.

Web Links:

Further Education in NI - www.femeansbusiness.com
Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk
Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com

MIDWIFE

A midwife must be able to give the necessary supervision, care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct deliveries on her/his own responsibility and to care for the newborn and the infant. Midwives work as part of a multidisciplinary team, liaising with other healthcare professionals including GPs, health visitors and social workers. The aim is to provide 'woman-centred' care working in partnership with the woman and promoting informed choice and continuity of care.

The midwife's role is very diverse, carrying out clinical care, providing health education and supporting the mother and her family throughout the childbearing process to help them adjust to their parental role. The work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and extends to certain areas of gynaecology, family planning and childcare. A midwife may work in hospitals, clinics, health units, community settings, midwifery units or in any other service. The midwife also works in partnership with other health and social care services to meet individual mothers' needs, for example teenage mothers, mothers who are socially excluded, disabled mothers and mothers from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Midwives are responsible for their own individual practice and have a statutory responsibility to keep up to date with current knowledge. All midwives have a named Supervisor of Midwives to assist them with updating their knowledge and to ensure their practice is safe.

Skills Required:

Qualities needed include an ability to get on well with people from a wide range of backgrounds; emotional and mental strength; good observation; ability to act on own initiative; patience, tact and a mature approach; willingness to take responsibility; ability to cope with distressing situations and to remain calm in stressful situations.

Training Programme:

BSc (Hons)/Diploma in Midwifery Sciences

Queen's University Belfast

This is a 3 year pre-registration course leading to a degree or diploma and registration as a midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and is the first step towards a career in midwifery. The practice component is provided through practice placement in maternity units. An 18 month pre-registration midwifery course is available for registered nurses.

“ A rewarding opportunity to work with mothers, babies and families. Although it is challenging and hard work it is great bringing new life into the world and seeing smiles on different parents faces. I get job satisfaction and the public admire and respect our profession! ”

Entry Qualifications:

On commencement of the course, candidates must be at least 18 years old; meet the Nursing and Midwifery Council minimum entry requirements of 5 GCSE (or approved equivalent) at grades A-C to include English and a Mathematical/Scientific subject. In addition, all candidates must have, or be completing academic qualifications commensurate with entry into third level education - these qualifications will be taken into consideration at short-listing.

Career Pathway:

Midwives have an option to develop their midwifery career in many different ways. It may be as a clinical specialist, as a consultant midwife, in a practice development role, in quality assurance, or in management as a head of midwifery services or supervisor of midwives at local authority level. Some midwives prefer to pursue an academic career in education and research. Midwives have developed innovative specialist roles, for example in ultrasound, foetal medicine, intensive care neonatal units, public health, parenting education and many others. Career prospects are excellent; newly qualified midwives move rapidly to permanent posts within the HPSS with potential to progress to posts that influence and shape the future of midwifery and maternity care.

Professional Recognition:

Leads to registration as a midwife (RM) with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

How to Apply:

Contact Queen's University Belfast for application pack.

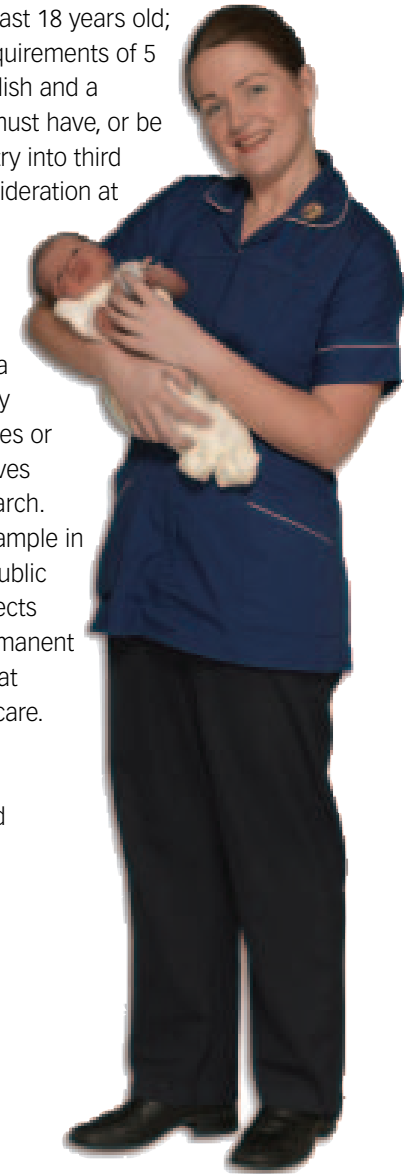
Web Links:

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

Nursing and Midwifery Council – www.nmc-uk.org

Royal College of Midwives – www.rcm.org.uk

Royal College of Nurses – www.rcn.org.uk



NURSE

There has never been a more exciting time for nursing within the Health and Personal Social Services in Northern Ireland. Nursing practice takes place in a context of continuing change and development - changes in people's health and social care needs, advances in technology and rising public expectation. The changing pattern of practice and the organisation of care delivery within the Health and Personal Social Services create challenges and many opportunities for nurses. Professional nursing encompasses the Art and Science of nursing, the provision of safe, effective and high quality care. Care that is delivered in real partnership with patients and communities, in collaboration with other members of the healthcare team and that embraces the human values of caring and compassion. Different people have different needs and to meet these needs nurses complete preparation programmes in one of four areas of practice - Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Learning Disability Nursing or Children's Nursing. The Nursing and Midwifery Council regulates these programmes and successful completion of the programmes leads to registration with the Council.

Skills Required:

The HPSS requires nurses who have a desire to help people. You need to be a practical individual and know how to manage your time. You will need to have an ability to get on well with people from a wide range of backgrounds; emotional and mental strength; good observational skills; the ability to act on your own initiative; willingness to take responsibility; ability to remain calm in stressful situations and a mature approach. Preparation programmes for nursing help students develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies required for professional nursing practice.

Training Programmes:

Pre-registration nursing programmes are provided by Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster at Magee and Coleraine Campuses. They are three-year programmes leading to registration as a nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and a degree or diploma in nursing sciences in one of four branches - adult, mental health, learning disability or children's nursing. All programmes are constructed with a one-year common foundation programme and two-year branch programme and 50% theory, 50% practice. The practice component is provided through practice placements in hospitals and in community based facilities. In order to accommodate the large numbers of students completing the adult nursing programme practice placement guidance issued by the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety for this programme requires each

“Nursing is the essence of caring and I feel privileged to be in a position of making a difference to patients who depend on me.”

university to avail of practice placements in specific Health and Social Services Board areas. The practice placement component is a compulsory and extremely important element of pre-registration nursing programmes and applicants to these programmes must consider carefully the requirements and commitment in this regard before accepting a place on a pre-registration nursing programme.

Entry Qualifications:

The Nursing and Midwifery Council require programme providers to ensure that applicants for pre-registration nursing programmes have provided evidence of literacy and numeracy. This may be integral to academic or vocational qualifications, or alternative evidence such as Key Skills abilities (Key Skills Level 3) or meet the requirements of Higher Education Institute processes for non-standard entrants. Additionally programme providers may set their own specific educational requirements, agreed in partnership with local service providers.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council also require programme providers to satisfy themselves that applicants to pre-registration nursing programmes have good health and character sufficient for safe and effective practice as a nurse. The Council further requires that processes will be in place for ongoing assessment of good health and character for the continued participation of students in pre-registration nursing programmes. On completion of the pre-registration programme the Nursing and Midwifery Council will require confirmation of good health and good character in order for the student to enter the register.

Career Pathway:

Career prospects for registered nurses are excellent. The majority of newly qualified nurses move rapidly to permanent posts within the HPSS. There is a range of varied career opportunities in nursing progressing to posts that influence and shape the future of nursing and healthcare practice. Nurses are valued for their communication skills, practical



NURSE continued

abilities, management ability, leadership and their responsiveness to the needs of patients and communities. Whether you lead a nursing team, are a member of a nursing team or are a nurse consultant, manage limited resources or develop new approaches to nursing care, your skills will have a direct impact on patients.

Professional Recognition:

Registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council on Part One of the Nursing and Midwifery Council Register as a Registered General Nurse (RGN) – Adult Nursing, Registered Mental Nurse (RMN), Registered Nurse Mental Handicap (RNMH)- Learning Disability Nursing, Registered Sick Children’s Nurse (RSCN) Children’s Nursing.

How to Apply:

Contact universities for application pack.

Web Links:

Queen’s University Belfast – www.qub.ac.uk/nur/

E-mail: nursing@qub.ac.uk

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

Nursing & Midwifery Council – www.nmc-uk.org

“ The job gives me the satisfaction and flexibility to work and train others in a busy environment. Catering is vitally important in aiding patients’ recovery. ”

CATERER

Catering services play a vital role in patients’ recovery. Good food, served in a caring manner, can have a positive effect on a patient’s hospital experience. The catering team supports the delivery of basic care services by providing tasty and nutritious food and helping clinical teams to meet the individual needs of patients.

Catering in the health service is a diverse area, with many different avenues and associated responsibilities. Jobs range from head chef in a busy kitchen, to a ward housekeeper whose duties involve ensuring that patients have the right food to meet their needs. They may involve providing food for patients, some of whom may have very specific dietary requirements, or for the thousands of staff and visitors who pass through the doors of the NHS every day.

Entry Requirements:

For many posts there are no minimum national entry requirements, although chefs and head chefs need City & Guilds Certificates 7061, 7062 or 7063 or a relevant NVQ. However, it may be possible to join as an assistant chef or catering assistant and to obtain the necessary qualifications after further experience and training. Catering Assistants are part of a team committed to ensuring that food and drink is nutritious, appetising and appropriate for patients’ medical and cultural needs.

How to Apply:

Directly to Trusts in response to job recruitment adverts in the local press, on the Belfast Telegraph website and through Job Centres. Consult the prospectus of your local college of further/higher education for full details of available courses.

Web Links:

Further Education in NI - www.femeansbusiness.com

Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk

Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com



CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGIST

Clinical Physiologists work with patients taking measurements and monitoring a range of physiological parameters providing information on the extent of disease or disability. Clinical Physiologists are mainly employed as specialists in audiology, cardiology or neurophysiology and respiratory physiology.

In Cardiology you would work with patients with heart disease performing a range of investigations and treatments such as heart stress tests, heart scans, reprogramming pacemakers and performing radioisotope tests. The results of these tests help the medical staff to accurately diagnose and treat the cardiac patient.

In Neurophysiology you would be engaged in the electrodiagnostic procedure recording the electrical activity of the brain and nervous system. This enables diagnoses of diseases such as epilepsy, strokes, dementia, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis.

In Audiology you would carry out audiological diagnostic tests including audiometry, middle ear analysis, vestibular assessments and hearing aid prescription.

In Respiratory you would perform tests to diagnose patients with lung or airway diseases, measuring lung volume, airway flow, and measure the oxygen content of the blood.

Skills Required:

You will need to be able to work as part of a team and have good communicative skills; have technical and analytical abilities. The variety of test procedures carried out by a Clinical Physiologist requires a high level of understanding of anatomy, physiology, pathology and instrumentation as well as the ability to work sympathetically with patients.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Clinical Physiology

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

“ I find great job satisfaction due to diversity ranging from clinical application, teaching and research, all together contributing directly to patient care. ”

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 240 Tariff Points to include grades BC (in either a GCE A-level in one of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics or VCE Double Award in Science or Health and Social Care).

GCSE pass at grade C or above in Mathematics, Physics grade C or double award Science BB are also required.

Career Pathway:

Graduates will be qualified to work as clinical physiologists within the health service. The course is currently validated by the Society of Cardiological Science and Technology (SCST) and students graduating with a cardiology major receive associate membership of the SCST (ACST).

Graduates of the course would also be qualified to research and develop novel approaches to physiological monitoring.

Professional Recognition:

The programme is professionally recognised and validated by the Society of Cardiological Science and Technology. The profession has applied to be regulated by the Health Professions Council.

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

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

The Society for Cardiological Science and Technology – www.scst.org.uk



ORTHOPTIST

Orthoptists investigate, diagnose and manage abnormal eye movements and visual defects such as squint, lazy eye and double vision. Orthoptic treatment aims to achieve maximum visual potential and the relief of symptoms. It includes a combination of eye exercises, glasses, patching and surgical intervention.

Orthoptists are involved in many areas of care. You may work in multidisciplinary teams that include ophthalmologists, optometrists, paediatricians, neurologists and other healthcare workers.

Graduates are able to take up employment in hospital eye departments, health centres and other community settings once they become registered with the Health Professions Council. Opportunities exist to specialise in areas of orthoptic care associated with conditions such as stroke, trauma, paediatrics and neurosciences.

Skills Required:

An Orthoptist's work demands an ability to communicate well with people of all ages, but particularly with children. It also requires technical skills.

Training Programme:

BSc (Hons) Orthoptics

University of Liverpool undergraduate full-time 3 year programme

B.Med Sci (Hons) Orthoptics

University of Sheffield undergraduate full-time 3 year programme

Entry Qualifications:

University of Liverpool:

A minimum of 240 UCAS tariff points if three subjects at A level are studied, or 250 tariff points, if two subjects at A level are studied with additional AS levels.

University of Sheffield:

GCE/VCE A levels – BBB

Two GCE A levels plus two GCE AS levels - BB+AB

“ I really enjoy my job as every day brings a different challenge - from treating poor eyesight in children to diagnosing and treating adults with double vision. ”

There are opportunities for clinical placements during the programme to be based in Northern Ireland hospitals.

Career Pathway:

The majority of Orthoptists are employed in the National Health Service. Opportunities exist for career progression either in management to Head Orthoptist or specialist in clinical practice.

Professional Recognition:

The courses are recognised by the Health Professions Council (HPC).

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

University of Sheffield – www.shef.ac.uk

University of Liverpool – www.liv.ac.uk

British Orthoptic Society – www.britishorthopticsociety.co.uk



“ To know that we assist in the well-being of patients is very rewarding. ”

PORTER

Porters play a vital role throughout the hospital. They move patients between different departments and wards in safety and comfort. They also transport complex and valuable equipment that may need expert handling around the building. Without them the hospital could not function.

Skills Required:

As a hospital porter you need to have good communication skills for dealing with other hospital staff, patients and the general public in a friendly and helpful manner; be physically fit and active; able to cope well under pressure. You should be able to act calmly and quickly in emergencies; follow instructions; be reliable and hardworking and capable of dealing with sickness, death and distress.

The Entry Requirements:

There are no specific qualification entry requirements, but you must be physically fit and able to cope with lifting and walking considerable distances. If working on a large site a driving licence may be required.

Training Programme:

There are formal training programmes and all porters will have an induction course when starting in their position. This generally covers information about the hospital, health and safety, lifting techniques etc. Further training is then given on the job.



Career Pathway:

After experience, you could become a supervisor and further promotion to the level of head porter or porter manager is possible.

How to Apply:

Vacancies are advertised in the local press and Job Centres. You can also contact the hospitals/Trusts for information on their opportunities.

Web Links:

Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk
Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com

“ Even though it is a highly technical profession I still have everyday contact with the patients. ”

RADIOGRAPHER

Diagnostic Radiographer

Diagnostic Radiographers are involved directly with the patient producing high-quality images of organs, limbs and other parts of the body to allow diagnoses and assessment of disease and injuries. They work with a range of different 'high tech' methods of examination, including x-rays, computed tomography (CT) scanning, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or ultrasound.

Therapeutic Radiographer

Therapeutic Radiographers use high-energy radiation to treat cancer and other conditions. They are responsible for targeting the correct dose of radiation at the site of the disease. Working with other specialists, they plan each patient's course of treatment. They also explain the process to the patient and discuss possible side effects and care throughout treatment. During treatment they assess patients on a daily basis, monitor side effects and provide support.

Skills Required:

Radiographers need technical skill and academic ability. They must be comfortable working with complex equipment and keep up to date with fast-moving developments. Your training will provide the necessary clinical and technical expertise.

However, you will be working closely with patients who may be anxious and distressed, therefore you should be a good communicator and be able to offer support, empathy and encouragement to patients.

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Radiography

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

A minimum of 300 UCAS Tariff Points to include grades BB (to include one GCE science subject at minimum grade B or VCE Double Award Science).
GCSE passes at grade C or above in Mathematics, Physics and Biology or Chemistry are also required.

Career Pathway:

Choices for the Diagnostic Radiographer include trauma/accident and emergency, CT scanning, MRI, nuclear medicine, breast screening and medical ultrasound. Radiographers may also choose to specialise in teaching, research, management or clinically as their careers progress.

Choices for the Therapeutic Radiographer include: treatment planning, treatment delivery, treatment review and palliative care.

Professional Recognition:

The course is accredited by the Society and College of Radiographers and the Health Professions Council (HPC). Radiography graduates are eligible for State Registration with HPC and membership of the Society of Radiographers.

How to Apply:

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

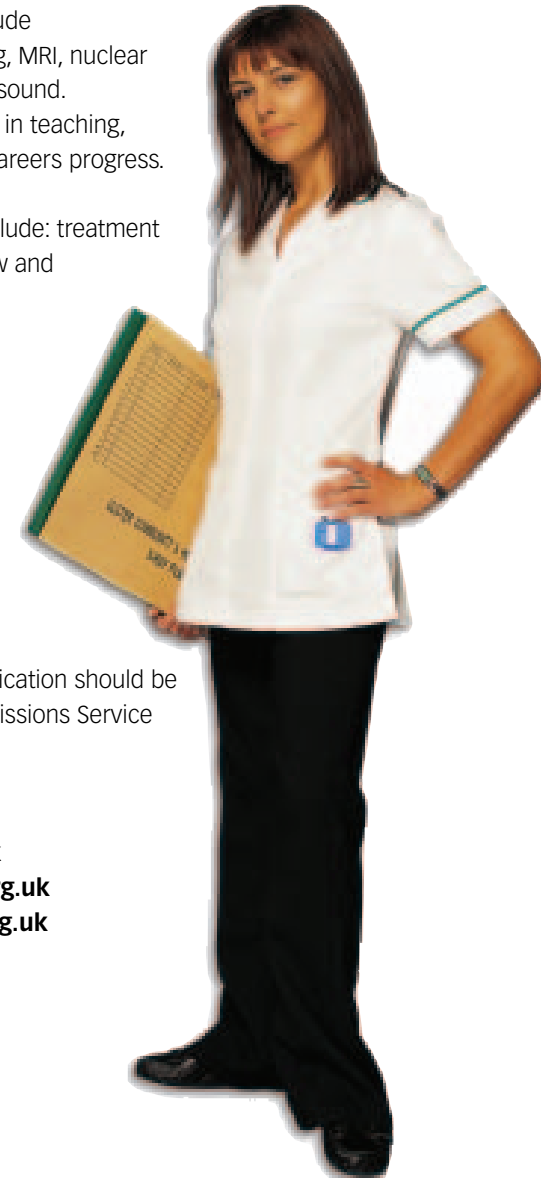
Web Links:

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

British Institute of Radiography - www.bir.org.uk

Society of Radiographers NI - www.sorni.org.uk

Society of Radiographers UK - www.sor.org



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

“ 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. ”

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.



CLINICAL SCIENTIST continued

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

“ I deliver effective and efficient care to people in need to improve the health and well-being of the community. ”

PARAMEDIC / AMBULANCE TECHNICIAN

The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service personnel include Ambulance Care Attendants, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), Paramedics and Control and Communications staff, Management, Training, Administration and Support staff. The service is divided into a number of main areas:

Patient Care Services

The Patient Care Services tier of the organisation plays a dynamic role in the care, management and transportation of patients to and from healthcare facilities, who do not require the skills and interventions of a Paramedic or EMT. Ambulance Care Attendants provide a quality, caring service for those patients who may require transport based on mobility need, for example if wheelchair or stretcher bound, and/or for patients who may require oxygen therapy.

Accident and Emergency Services

EMTs and Paramedics are focused on providing a pre-hospital emergency care service which is designed to give medical attention at the scene of accidents and emergencies and also en route to hospital. Meticulous care and attention is required and the working environment can be both mentally and physically demanding. The job presents a significant challenge to caring and committed individuals and the rewards are quite unique.

Control and Communications

NIAS Control and Communication centres are generally the first point of contact for the public seeking immediate assistance and immediate medical care. As such they represent a key component in the pre-hospital healthcare system.

Ambulance Headquarters

The following functions and services are managed at Ambulance Headquarters in Belfast:
- Finance and Accounts; Human Resources and Training; Operational Ambulance Services; Fleet Management and Maintenance; Information Technology; Administration and Secretarial Support; Purchasing and Stores.

Skills Required:

Ambulance personnel at all levels must be honest, show initiative, have excellent people skills and a caring personality, and be prepared to work with all types of people. They

must be responsible and take their work seriously. They have to be well organised and enjoy working as part of a team, while being able to make their own decisions when necessary. They must be able to stay calm under pressure and possess good communication skills.

Training Programmes:

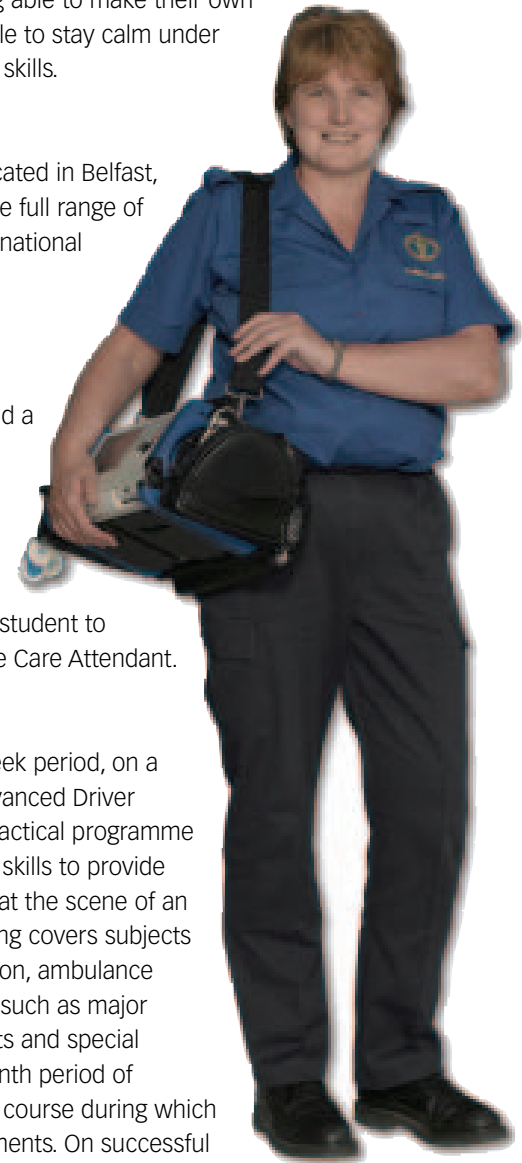
The Regional Ambulance Training Centre, located in Belfast, is the sole provider in Northern Ireland of the full range of IHCD (London Qualifications Ltd) accredited national ambulance awards.

Patient Care Services Training

Two IHCD modules delivered over a 4-week period, a 3-week Ambulance Care Award and a 1-week Driver Training Course. The training provides essential information and teaches practical skills to equip the Ambulance Care Attendant to perform their role as effectively and efficiently as possible. The knowledge and skills gained will enable the student to become a competent and caring Ambulance Care Attendant.

EMT Training

Four IHCD modules delivered over an 11-week period, on a residential basis. This includes a 2-week Advanced Driver Training Course and a 9-week theory and practical programme designed to equip EMTs with the necessary skills to provide effective care and management of patients at the scene of an accident and en route to hospital. The training covers subjects such as anatomy and physiology, resuscitation, ambulance equipment, defibrillation, special conditions such as major incidents, chemical incidents, violent patients and special procedures such as sudden death. A 12-month period of assessment follows the formal EMT training course during which time trainees must pass 4 quarterly assessments. On successful



PARAMEDIC / AMBULANCE TECHNICIAN continued

completion of this period, trainees are deemed qualified and are presented with an IHCD Award.

Paramedic Training

NIAS Paramedics are mostly recruited from the EMT tier of the organisation. Students undertake three IHCD modules delivered over an 11-week period, on a residential basis. Modules G and H focus on Advanced CPR, Intubation, Infusion, ECG Interpretation, Defibrillation, Drug Therapy, Collapse and Trauma. Modules I1 and I2 focus on Paediatrics and Obstetrics/Gynaecology. Students then undertake a 4-week placement in hospital departments during which time they are assessed in areas such as Intubation, Cannulation, Infusion, Airway Management, Artificial Ventilation, Blood Sampling, ECGs, Defibrillation and Use of Drugs.

Control and Communications Training

Because of the hi-tech nature of the operating environment in the Ambulance Control and Communications centres, extensive on-the-job training is provided in the use of specific telecommunications hardware and software used by NIAS.

Entry Qualifications:

N.B. The Ambulance Service continually reviews all its entry criteria for all posts and up to date information can be obtained by contacting the Human Resources Department, Trust Headquarters.

Ambulance Care Attendant

Previous experience is not essential but applicants should hold a full unrestricted driving licence which must include categories C1 and D1. Applicants with up to 3 penalty points on their licence will be considered.

EMT

Applicants for EMT training must have 5 GCSE subjects at Grade C or above, including English and Maths or equivalent qualifications, OR 3 GCSEs at Grade C or above including English and Maths or equivalent qualifications AND hold an IHCD Ambulance Care Award AND be prepared to sit the IHCD/EMT pre-entry test. Candidates must also hold a full unrestricted driving licence, which must include categories C1 and D1. Applicants with up to 3 penalty points on their licence will be considered.

Paramedic

Applications for Paramedic Training will only be considered from qualified EMTs with a minimum of 12 months post-qualification experience on Accident and Emergency duties. Candidates are required to pass IHCD theory and practical examinations, followed by an interview.

Control and Communications

Applicants for Control and Communications Staff must have 3 GCSEs at Grade C or above including English Language and possess basic computer skills. Full training will be provided to all successful candidates.

Career Pathway

Though working as an Ambulance Care Attendant is a rewarding career in itself, NIAS follows a nationally recognised education and development framework for career progression. The Patient Care Service tier provides an excellent entry level for those wishing to progress their career to EMT and Paramedic. However, NIAS also recruits EMTs and Paramedics externally through recruitment campaigns.

How to Apply:

All vacancies will be advertised widely in the local press and also on the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service website.

Web Links:

Northern Ireland Ambulance Service - www.niamb.co.uk
Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk

PROSTHETIST & ORTHOTIST

Prosthetists and Orthotists are responsible for the assessing, measuring, design, fit, supply and review of prostheses and orthoses for patients. A prosthesis is a device that replaces a missing limb whilst an orthosis is a device fitted to an existing body segment. Prosthetists design and fit artificial replacements for patients who have lost or were born without a limb. They design a replacement limb by taking a plaster cast of the area on to which it is to fit.

Orthotists provide braces, splints and special footwear to help patients' with movement difficulties and to relieve discomfort. The orthotist assesses the patient's problem and decides upon a prescription and then designs the orthosis, supervises its manufacture, fitting and adjustment, and teaches the patient how to use it.

Skills Required:

You will need a high level of technical knowledge, particularly in biomechanics and movement. Your training will provide this. There is, however, much more to the role than technical ability. You must be able to deal with clients with patience and tact, to give them clear explanations and advice, and to reassure and encourage them.

Training Programme:

BSc (Hons) Prosthetics and Orthotics

University of Salford undergraduate full-time four year programme

BSc (Hons) Prosthetics and Orthotics

University of Strathclyde undergraduate full-time four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

University of Salford:

GCSE: 5 passes with grades A to C including English Language and Mathematics.

Advanced GCE (A2/AS level): 180-240 points. Biology is essential, preferably with Mathematics and/or Physics.

A-Level: At least two passes, preferably three to a total of 18 points. Biology is essential with Mathematics or Physics.

AS Level: Acceptable in combination with A levels or alone. Must be equivalent to A-Level points and must include Biology, Mathematics and Physics.

“ The provision of orthotic devices to support or protect the body from head down to toe makes every day a different challenge for an Orthotist. Giving people back independence for everyday life makes the outcome rewarding. ”

University of Strathclyde:

SCE Higher Grade: 4 passes at BBBB including Maths and two Science subjects (Biology, Physics, Technological Studies or Chemistry are preferred subjects).

Marginally under-qualified applicants from sixth year are advised to take CSYS or GCE Advanced level rather than to upgrade Highers.

GCE Advanced Level: 3 passes at CCC including Maths and at least one further Science subject (Biology, Physics, Technological Studies or Chemistry are preferred subjects).

Applicants with GNVQ and other qualifications can apply.

Career Pathway:

Most prosthetic and orthotic graduates begin their careers working for commercial companies who work for the Health & Personal Social Services (HPSS). However, there are increasing opportunities to work directly for the health service. As you become more experienced you may specialise in a particular area of clinical work or move into management, teaching or research.

Professional Recognition:

On completion of the course you will be eligible to apply for State Registration and become full members of the Health Professions Council and the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

University of Salford – www.salford.ac.uk

University of Strathclyde - www.strath.ac.uk



MANAGER

Managers play a key role in the Health & Personal Services (HPSS) structure, managing the skilled staff who make up the HPSS, controlling the finance, procuring and providing the equipment, buildings and services needed to deliver effective healthcare.

Opportunities for managerial posts are many and varied – for example, you could be a manager running a GP's surgery or a chief executive controlling a large hospital with a budget of millions of pounds. There are management posts across primary, community and secondary care in the HPSS, including positions in administration, property management, clinical support, and service support.

General Managers organise the delivery of healthcare for the local community to meet the needs of the population.

Estate and Facilities Managers manage buildings, support services and other environments where healthcare is delivered.

Practice Managers manage the overall running of GP surgeries.

Information Managers use information and IT to monitor performance and set priorities.

Financial Managers manage budgets and decide on resource allocation. They contribute to planning the quality and quantity of patient care.

Clinical Managers manage the delivery of clinical care and treatment.

Human Resource (HR) or Personnel Managers provide career management, training and support for staff. Staff roles include human resources managers, medical staffing managers, deputy directors of personnel.

Skills Required:

As a manager in the HPSS many people will depend on your decisions, so you will be required to accept responsibility, be dynamic and able to perform well under pressure. To make a success of being a manager you will need: a desire to get things done; willingness to work with others and respect their views; good communication skills; organisational skills; being confident with numbers; being comfortable with IT; negotiating skills; ability to challenge the status quo and find viable new alternatives; honesty and fairness in dealing with people; leadership potential; a commitment to the ideals of quality and equity in delivering healthcare; above all you'll need determination, motivation and commitment.

“ My job is varied and busy, working with different people in a large and complex team. The planning, co-ordination and delivery of services for patients is an active, interesting post. ”

Training Programme:

BSc Hons Management

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

BSc Hons Management

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time three/four year programme

Entry Qualifications:

University of Ulster:

You must satisfy the general entry requirements for admission to a first degree course. Grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent.

A-Level: A minimum of 240 UCAS Tariff points to include grades CC

IE Level: BBBCC (345 - 395)

Queen's University Belfast:

BSc Management: BBB or BBC + B (AS level) + GCSE Mathematics. Please note that from 2005 entry GCSE Mathematics grade B will be required for admission to this course.

Many managers within the HPSS have progressed to their positions through in-house training programmes and promotion. Various informal and formal training programmes which may be accredited are provided for staff with support from Trusts. Entry into management can also be via a professional qualification and progression through clinical services to managerial posts..

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) also supports the Graduate Management Training Scheme. This is a full-time, two-year programme. The Beeches Management Centre at 12 Hampton Manor Drive, Belfast BT7 3EN is the provider of the course. Details are advertised in the Belfast Telegraph.



“ Being able to protect patients and staff within the hospital gives me great satisfaction. ”

MANAGER continued

Career Pathway:

University of Ulster: The majority of graduates are expected to gain employment at management level in finance, personnel, marketing and information, in industry and commerce, government agencies and other public sector organisations in Northern Ireland and further afield.

Queen’s University Belfast: The curriculum provides graduates with appropriate knowledge and skills to work in a wide range of occupations.

Professional Recognition:

Managers are eligible to become members of the Institute of Health Service Management. (IHSM).

How to Apply:

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

Web Links:

The University of Ulster – www.ulster.ac.uk
Queen’s University Belfast – www.qub.ac.uk

SECURITY OFFICER

Security staff have a vital role in ensuring that hospitals are welcoming and accessible but also safe environments for patients, visitors and staff. They also protect buildings and valuable equipment. Their main duties include patrolling, responding to incidents, and the control of traffic and the operation of CCTV equipment.

Skills Required:

Security Officers need to be mature, responsible and honest; observant; good at communicating and dealing with people; able to handle sensitive situations; polite and helpful; fit and healthy; able to write short reports; able to deal with modern surveillance systems such as CCTV and security tags; conversant with computers and other technical equipment; confident to challenge and engage people when necessary; able to use their initiative and make quick decisions.

Entry Requirements:

There are no minimum qualifications, although Trusts may set specific requirements for the role.

Career Pathway:

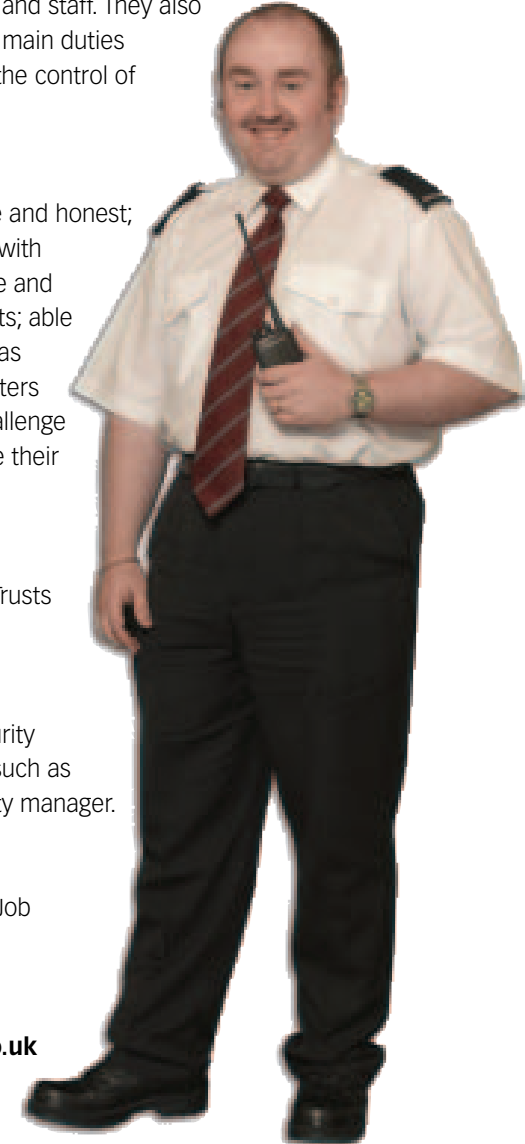
When they have built up some experience, Security Officers may be promoted to more senior jobs such as supervisor, and could possibly become a security manager.

How to Apply:

Vacancies are advertised in the local press and Job Centres.

Web Links:

Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk
Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com



ESTATES OFFICER

The primary function of the Estate Department is to provide, operate and maintain a suitable physical environment to deliver the healthcare programme within Hospital and Personal Social Services facilities.

In order to achieve this, the Estate Department has to ensure that the engineering and building services are maintained and operated in an efficient and effective manner, thereby ensuring that these services are available for healthcare needs of the future.

Some of the services include:

maintenance of grounds, buildings and engineering installations; management of medical devices; environmental management; voice telecommunications, including the switchboard; fire prevention, health and safety; security; waste disposal; design of new works, small and large.

The role of the Estates Officer is to ensure that the service needs of the staff and patient in relation to engineering services and building services are maintained and available at all times. The Estates Officer also ensures that all future development within the service can be provided to the required standards in relation to engineering and building services.

Estates Officer roles and responsibilities include:-

management of Direct Employed Labour Staff and direction of all their activities; responsibility and accountability for the management of a range of complex or critical services; professional responsibility for the management of contracts, both Capital Works and Maintenance; responsibility for managing and authorising budgets for Maintenance and Capital Works and for the approval of all invoices associated with these works; supervisory responsibility internally for directly employed works and maintenance staff and externally for Contractors/Services Engineers carrying out works in relation to their area of responsibility; on-call service.

Skills Required

Good interpersonal skills are essential together with ICT skills and an understanding of complexities of new technology.

“ I wanted to be an electrician when I was very young. I liked the idea of being part of a big team but also of having to work on my own and use my own initiative. ”

Training Programme:

BTEC Higher National Diploma/Certificate in Building/Engineering Studies are offered at a number of further education colleges throughout Northern Ireland.

BEng Hons/BEng Engineering Management

BEng Hons Building Services Engineering

University of Ulster undergraduate full-time 4 year programme

Estates Officers normally hold the following qualifications in proportion to their particular level of grade:

EO1/EO2 - HNC or HND in Building or Engineering

EO3 to EO6 - Degree in Building or Engineering and membership of a relevant professional body such as:

Registered Architect – Royal Institute of British Architects

Corporate Member of Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

Corporate Member of Chartered Institute of Building

Corporate Member of Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers

Corporate Member of Institute of Civil Engineers

Corporate Member of Institute of Mechanical Engineers

Corporate Member of Institute of Electrical Engineers

Corporate Member of Institute of Electronic Engineers

Corporate Member of Institute of Radio Engineers

The Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management.



ESTATES OFFICER continued

Entry Qualifications:

To find out specific course requirements candidates should consult individual prospectuses.

Career Pathway

There are opportunities for promotion from Grade EO1 Estates Officer through to Grade EO6 Estates Officer

How to Apply:

For HNC/HND courses, contact should be made directly to the colleges.

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

Web Links:

Further Education in NI - www.femeansbusiness.com

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

“ The level of cleanliness in the wards is one of the first things patients and visitors notice. It’s good to think that we provide a safe clean environment for all. ”

DOMESTIC ASSISTANT

Domestic Assistants are responsible for maintaining a clean working environment within their ward area. This involves operating cleaning equipment, techniques and systems.

You must be able to work within a caring, confidential environment and be flexible and reliable. You will work as a member of a team and be responsible to the Domestic Services Manager. Applicants need to be caring and sensitive, physically fit for lifting and moving duties, enthusiastic, well organised, willing to undertake training, aware of the need for confidentiality, responsible and mature, have a flexible approach and be able to work as part of a team.

The Entry Requirements:

No formal qualifications required for Domestic Assistants. Full training will be given. With experience and training you can apply for supervisory jobs in domestic care.

How to Apply:

Vacancies are advertised in the local press and Job Centres. You can also contact the hospitals/Trusts for information on their opportunities.

Web Links:

Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk

Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com



SUPPORT TEAM WORKER

SUPPORT TEAM WORKER/ASSISTANT

There are various posts within the healthcare team which provide support for the infrastructure of the health and social care services. These positions are essential to the smooth operation and delivery of care. Some examples of such posts are:

LAUNDRY OPERATIVES/ASSISTANTS

Laundry services provide one of the key services in terms of patient comfort and hygiene. These services are provided by a team of laundry operatives ensuring that a supply of clean linen is available to meet the varied needs of the care services.

CENTRAL STERILE SUPPLY ASSISTANTS

Central Sterile Supply Departments provide a sterilisation process for equipment used in the clinical setting. As an assistant you would be working as part of the sterilisation team essential to clinical services. You would be providing a wide variety of high quality, safe, sterilised, decontaminated instruments and equipment. You would be helping to maintain an effective stock system for instruments supplied to hospitals and GP surgeries.

OPERATING DEPARTMENT ORDERLY (ODO)

Orderlies provide a support role within the operating theatre department, transporting patients before and after surgery, helping to position the patients and supplying materials and equipment within the operating theatre.

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL OFFICERS (ATOs)

A variety of ATO positions are established within Trusts. As an ATO you may work within a range of clinical and non-clinical areas supporting the services by maintaining and operating equipment used within the delivery of care. You may work directly or indirectly with clients and patients as part of the healthcare team.

Skills Required:

These posts require someone with excellent communication skills and the ability to work as part of the team. The ability to respect patient confidentiality is also required. Observational skills are needed as well as technical ability as you may be required to operate equipment and machinery.

“ I enjoy working with CSSD as it has many aspects, different and varied. I also enjoy the atmosphere within my department and the reward of providing a service for patients. ”

Entry Requirements:

No formal qualifications are required to apply for these positions. In-house programmes and external training courses are supported by Trusts. Training can lead to an NVQ Level specific to your area of work.

How to Apply:

Vacancies are advertised in the local press and Job Centres. You can also contact the Trusts for information on their opportunities.

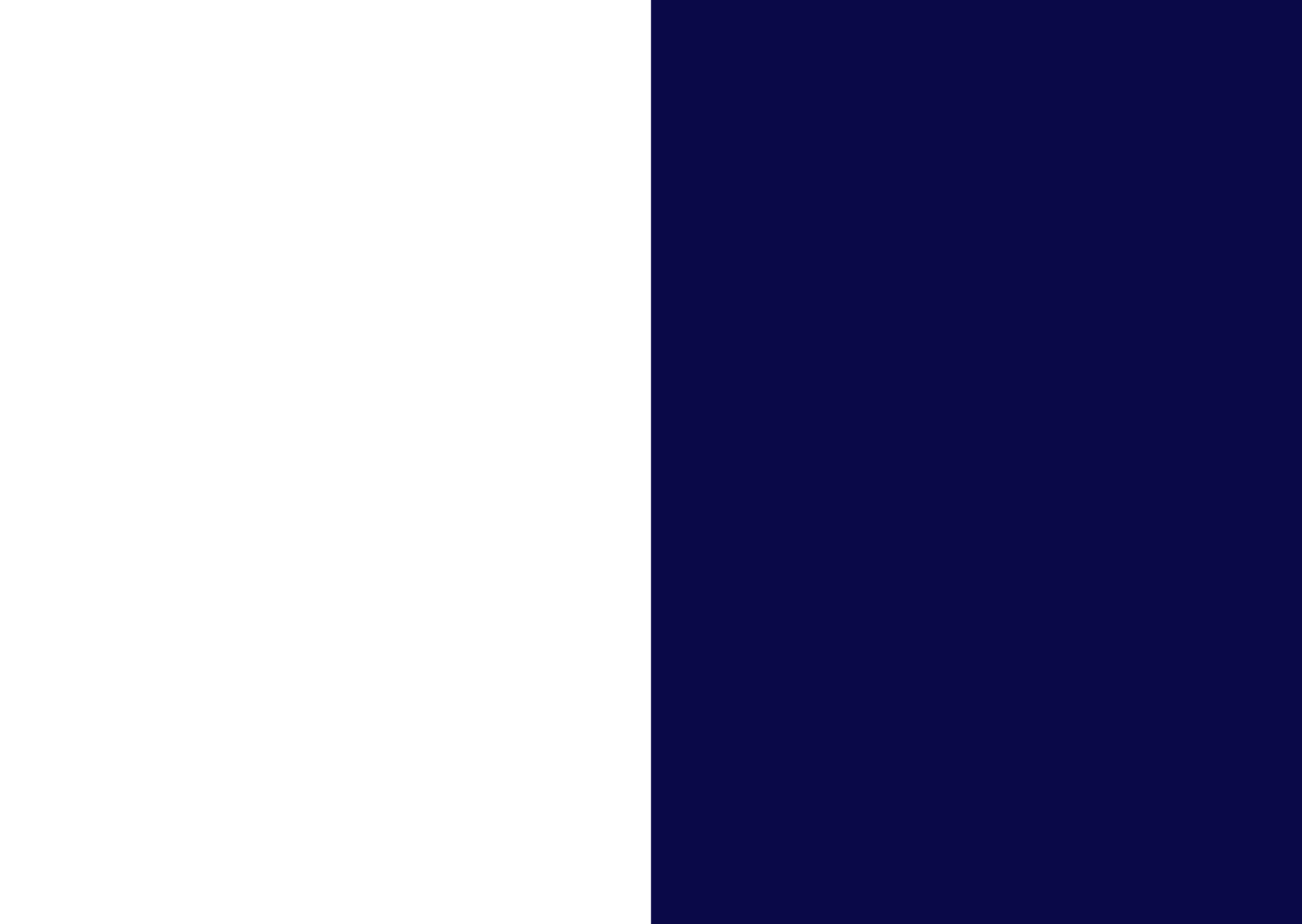
Web Links:

Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk
Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com



INDEX

Administration and Clerical Officer	44
Biomedical Scientist.....	6
Caterer.....	57
Clinical Physiologist	58
Clinical Psychologist.....	18
Clinical Scientist.....	66
Creative Therapist.....	8
Dentist	12
Dietitian	20
Doctor.....	46
Domestic Assistant.....	83
Estates Officer.....	80
Healthcare Assistant.....	50
Information, Communication & Technology Officer (ICT)	22
Manager	76
Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA)	24
Medical Secretary	26
Midwife.....	52
Nurse	54
Occupational Therapist.....	28
Optometrist	30
Orthoptist	60
Orthotist.....	74
Paramedic/Ambulance Technician	70
Pharmacist	32
Physiotherapist	34
Podiatrist	36
Porter.....	62
Professions Complementary to Dentistry	14
Prosthetist	74
Radiographer.....	64
Security Officer.....	79
Social Care Assistant	40
Social Worker	38
Speech & Language Therapist.....	42
Support Team Worker	84



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