



Midlands Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust
A Keele University Teaching Trust

Allied Health Professions – Is this a career for you?.....

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MPFT

- Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust provides physical and mental health care, learning disability and adult social care services across Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. In addition, we provide services on a wider regional and national basis including perinatal, eating disorder and forensic services. We deliver out of area sexual health services and our Inclusions service offers psychological and drug & alcohol services, in the community and in prisons, and has contracts across the country.
- As an organisation we serve a population of 1.5 million and currently employ around 8,500 members of staff.



MPFT

- We have a wide range of exciting opportunities for people looking to work in a truly integrated NHS organisation. By joining MPFT you will become part of a team who are empowered and supported to deliver care in a way which is consistent with our values:
 - Putting people at the heart of what we do
 - Empowering people to improve care and wellbeing
 - Delivering better health, better care in partnership

AHP's

- Allied Health Professions (AHPs) are a diverse group of practitioners who deliver high quality care to patients by carrying out assessment, diagnosis, treatment and discharge, across a range of settings in the NHS, local authorities, independent and voluntary sectors, breaking down organisational boundaries.
- AHPs are the third largest group of practitioners who, in the main, are first contact practitioners. In the NHS alone they account for 1 in 10 staff.
- MPFT employs over 1,000 AHPs across its whole portfolio of services, making up around one-eighth of the workforce.

AHP's

- In the main they are degree level professions, and are professionally autonomous practitioners. 13 of the 14 AHPs are regulated by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) with Osteopaths regulated by the General Osteopathic Council (GOC).
- AHPs provide system-wide care to assess, treat, diagnose and discharge patients across social care, housing, education, and independent and voluntary sectors. Through adopting an holistic approach to healthcare, AHPs are able to help manage patients' care throughout the life course from birth to palliative care.
- Their focus is on prevention and improvement of health and wellbeing to maximise the potential for individuals to live full and active lives within their family circles, social networks, education/training and the workplace

The 14 allied health professions

- Art Therapists
- Drama therapists
- Music therapists
- Chiropodists/podiatrists
- Dietitians
- Occupational therapists
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Orthoptists
- Osteopaths
- Paramedics
- Physiotherapists
- Prosthetists and Orthotists
- Radiographers
- Speech and language therapists

AHP is this a career for you?.....

- AHP's are vocational course. What that means is you are skilled to work as that professional when you complete your degree.
- A career in the allied health professions makes you highly employable, allows you to help people every day and gives you the flexibility to live and work anywhere!
- The link below will provide useful information on how to train for each of the AHP roles and provides short recording to explain a little about each profession:
- <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals/studying-be-allied-health-professional>

Financial support?....

- If you are thinking of studying for a health-related undergraduate or postgraduate degree, take a look at what financial support is available:
- <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/financial-support-university>
- Student payments available: All undergraduate and postgraduate nursing, midwifery and many of the allied health profession students can access support of between £5,000 and £8,000 per year from September 2020. And the good news is, you don't have to pay it back.

What can you expect to earn as an AHP?

- AHP's are paid in line with the Agenda for change pay scale:
- <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits/agenda-change-pay-rates>
- Once you are a qualified AHP you start at band 5 level and could expect to be paid £24,214 per annum to begin with.
- The working week is over 7 days and 37.5 hours.

How to become an Occupational Therapist.....

- To become an occupational therapist you'll need to train and study at undergraduate degree level (through a full-time course or degree apprenticeship) or if you already have a relevant degree, at Masters level through a 2-year accelerated programme. Entry requirements vary depending on where you'd like to study.
- The apprenticeship route is a new way to train while working at the same time.

How to become a Physiotherapist.....

- To practise as a physiotherapist, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). To register with the HCPC, you first need to successfully complete an approved degree level qualification in physiotherapy. This may be a full or part-time course or a degree apprenticeship in physiotherapy. Full time degrees take three years. Part time degrees vary from four to six years.
- There are also two-year accelerated MSc courses available to people who already have a BSc degree in a relevant subject.

How to become a dietitian....

- To practise as a dietitian, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). In order to register with the HCPC, you must first successfully complete an approved degree in dietetics. This is usually a BSc (Hons) degree, although there are shortened postgraduate programmes if you already have a relevant first degree.
- A degree apprenticeship standard in dietetics has also been approved.

How to become a Speech & Language Therapist.....

- To practise as a speech and language therapist, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). To register with the HCPC, you first need to successfully complete an approved degree (which takes three or four years full time or up to six years part time).
- There are also some postgraduate programmes which usually take 2 years. A degree apprenticeship standard in speech and language therapy has also been approved.

AHP Assistant roles...

- Most of the AHP professions have assistant posts if this is something you would be more interested in.
- Have a look on NHS vacancies to see what types of roles are available and what pay scale they are matched at.
- There are no set entry requirements for OT support workers. Employers expect good numeracy and literacy and some experience or qualifications in health or social care. Employers may ask for GCSEs in English and maths. They may ask for a BTEC or equivalent vocational qualifications in health and social care.

The skills that you don't get from books!

- Able to be caring, compassionate and empathic
- able to motivate people
- accepting of other people's lifestyles
- willing to work with people from all walks of life
- happy to talk to and work with groups
- able to work in a team but use their own initiative
- able to follow procedures
- able to deal with people with challenging behaviour
- very good communication skills
- organisational skills
- flexible
- willing to travel

OT Case study – Paul

- Young male Paul age 19 experiencing mental health problems: anxiety, low mood, checking behaviours (obsessional compulsive disorder - OCD)
- Admitted to mental health ward – family can't have him back home
- Occupational Therapist using psychological approach support. OT helps Paul to secure tenancy in supported living complex, teaches everyday life skills such as cooking , budgeting and house management.
- Over a number of month OT supports Paul to socialise with peers, re-enrol at college and focus on wellness.
- Paul lives independently and lives well!

Any Questions

- If you wish to speak to me directly to enquire more about a career in Allied Health Professions please contact me on:

Kerry.langford-rotton@mpft.nhs.uk

- Please refer to the resource sheet to provide you with further links on where to find key information on all 14 AHP's

Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT)
Allied Health Professions (AHP) Resource Sheet

For information on MPFT and AHP follow this link:

<https://www.mpft.nhs.uk/working-here>

For information on each of the AHP's follow this link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/ahp/role/>

Health Education England Careers website is a good resource to find out more about a career in health and social care:

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/allied-health-professionals>

For a great resource to explore a wide range of professions the WOW show have an on line channel.

The WOW Show is a live online channel creating real-life encounters with the world of work to inspire young people about their futures

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

<https://www.thewowshow.org/health-careers-special/>