

HEALTHCARE SCIENCE ASSOCIATE LEVEL 4 PROGRAMME PLAN - RESPIRATORY PATHWAY

Duration: 24 months + End-Point Assessment (EPA)



CORE SESSIONS (ALL PATHWAYS)

- Being a Successful Student & Scientist
- Effective Communication
- Legal & Ethical context of working in Healthcare Science
- Health, Safety & Security
- Quality, Audit Research & Development
- Working in A Technical Environment
- Teaching, Training & Assessing Others
- Leadership, Supervision, Mentoring & Teamwork

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme is designed to develop Healthcare Science Associates working within Respiratory services, supporting the diagnosis, monitoring and management of respiratory conditions.

Respiratory services play a critical role in healthcare, supporting patients with conditions such as asthma, COPD and other chronic lung diseases. Healthcare Science Associates contribute to a range of diagnostic tests and support clinicians to deliver accurate, timely care.

This programme develops the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to perform respiratory diagnostic procedures safely and effectively, while building confidence to work with increasing autonomy within clinical teams.

The apprenticeship is delivered through:

- Monthly remote **core sessions** (shared across all pathways)
- **Specialist Respiratory teaching** aligned to workplace role
- **Workplace-based clinical practice and competency development**
- **Portfolio-based assessment** via e-portfolio
- **Regular coaching and progress reviews**
- **Gateway and End-Point Assessment** in the final months

Learning is applied directly within the workplace to support diagnostic accuracy, patient care and service delivery.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Assessment is portfolio-based and includes a range of workplace evidence demonstrating clinical competence and applied knowledge.

Examples include:

- Direct observation of respiratory diagnostic procedures
- Reflective accounts of patient interactions and testing
- Professional discussions
- Case studies and diagnostic reasoning activities
- Work products (e.g. test results, reports, equipment checks)
- Witness testimonies from colleagues or supervisors
- Competency-based assessments
- Knowledge questions or written assignments

All evidence is uploaded and reviewed through an e-portfolio system.



HEALTHCARE SCIENCE ASSOCIATE LEVEL 4 PROGRAMME PLAN - RESPIRATORY PATHWAY

Total off the Job Hours: 578 over a 24 months duration

OFF-THE-JOB LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Learners complete off-the-job training in line with apprenticeship requirements.

Activities include:

Core Learning

- Attending core sessions
- Completing knowledge-based assignments

Workplace Clinical Practice

- Preparing patients for respiratory tests
- Performing spirometry and pulmonary function testing
- Supporting point of care diagnostics
- Calibrating and maintaining equipment

Specialist Development

- Developing competency in respiratory diagnostic techniques
- Building confidence in interpreting results
- Understanding disease processes and patient pathways

Quality and Service Improvement

- Supporting audit and quality assurance
- Reviewing diagnostic processes
- Contributing to service improvements

Research and Professional Learning

- Reviewing respiratory guidelines and best practice
- Understanding clinical developments in respiratory care
- Developing scientific and clinical knowledge

Reflective Practice and Portfolio Development

- Writing reflective accounts
- Recording competencies and evidence
- Gathering feedback from colleagues

Coaching and Progress Reviews

- Regular reviews with coaches
- Setting development goals
- Preparing for End-Point Assessment

PROGRAMME OUTCOME

Apprentices will be able to:

- Perform respiratory diagnostic tests safely and accurately
- Apply physiological knowledge in clinical practice
- Support clinicians in diagnosis and patient management
- Communicate effectively with patients and teams
- Maintain equipment and ensure quality standards
- Contribute to improved patient outcomes
- Operate within governance and professional frameworks

SPECIALIST PATHWAY DELIVERY – RESPIRATORY

Delivered following the core units and aligned to workplace role.

Specialist areas include:

- Spirometry and reversibility testing
- Single breath gas transfer
- Static lung volumes
- Pulse oximetry
- Point of care testing (e.g. FeNO, ward spirometry)
- Anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system
- Pathophysiology of respiratory conditions

Learners develop the skills to perform and support a wide range of pulmonary function tests, contributing to diagnosis and monitoring of respiratory disease.

Specialist teaching is delivered by industry experts and directly linked to real clinical practice.

END-POINT ASSESSMENT (EPA)

The apprenticeship concludes with an independent End-Point Assessment.

The assessment typically includes:

• Observation of Practice

Assessment of clinical competence in respiratory diagnostics

• Professional Discussion

Exploring knowledge, skills and behaviours

• Portfolio Review

Showcasing evidence of competence and development

Achievement:

Level 4 Healthcare Science Associate Apprenticeship

Grades available: Pass or Distinction

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Functional Skills in English and maths are optional for apprentices aged 19+.

Support is provided where required.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

On successful completion, learners may progress to:

- Band 4 Healthcare Science Associate / Assistant Practitioner roles
- Respiratory Physiologist roles (with further training)
- Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships (e.g. Healthcare Science / Physiological Sciences)
- Registration with the Science Council as a Technician Scientist
- Further specialist qualifications such as ARTP accreditation



 **Dynamic Training**

020 8607 7850

ask@dynamictraining.org.uk