

# Healthcare Science Career of the Week



## Decontamination Science Technician

Area of HCS: Healthcare Science

Pay Scale: £15k - £22k

### AMAZING FACT

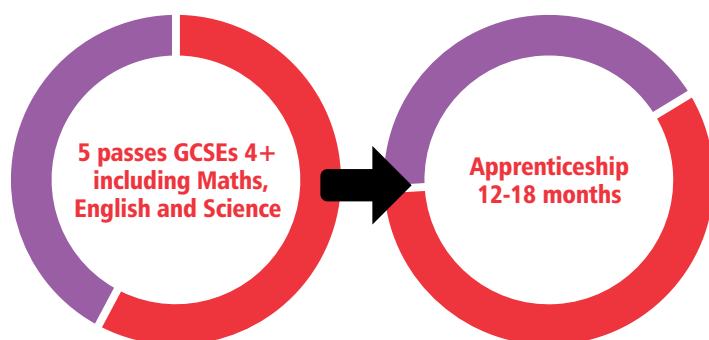
- Robots are helping the NHS combat infection. Yes you read that right, the NHS use robots to clean! These are super high tech advanced UV robots. We have all heard of UV radiation, it comes from the sun and it's what causes sunburn BUT it's also powerful enough when used in the right way to kill bacteria and viruses. They aren't cheap though, each one is £65, 000!

Decontamination Science Technician is definitely a forgotten role in the NHS, these guys are the backbone of the NHS and are the reason that you don't die of an infection when you go in for an operation! You'll work in the sterile services department in your NHS hospital as part of a team responsible for providing sterilised equipment to hospital theatres. The majority of the equipment is sterile single-use only and gets thrown away, however some reusable devices are used in operating theatres, clinics and A&E. You'll be working with the latest technology and top-end kit such as endoscopes, artery forceps, orthopaedic drills, dental instruments and devices used in plastic or eye surgery.

As you can imagine, personal hygiene is incredibly important and so you will be working in a full on decontamination suit. This is more to protect you than anyone else! Items will arrive from surgery with blood, urine, vomit and goodness knows what other bodily fluids! For cleaning and sterilising some of the equipment you will use highly sophisticated and automated equipment, for others unfortunately it's a manual get-stuck-in job.

This career offers on-the-job training, and you can go into the role straight after school. You'll be trained in-house at the hospital and you'll be enrolled on an Institute of Decontamination Technical Certificate and Foundation degree, which takes 12-18 months. There's lots of opportunities for career progression into management.

### What to do to get into this career...



### Did you know...?

- According to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence 300, 000 people each year pick up an infection while they are in hospital. Normally this is a respiratory infection or norovirus, but unwell people are put at risk. Decontaminations technicians are vital to the running of the NHS!

### Other roles to consider:

- Medical Engineering
- Operating Department Practitioner
- Theatre Nurse
- Theatre support worker



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