

## Genomic Counsellor

Area of HCS: Life Sciences

Pay Scale: £26k - £80k

### AMAZING FACT | • People share 7% of their genetic material with the bacteria *E.coli*, 21% with worms, 90% with mice and 98% with chimpanzees.

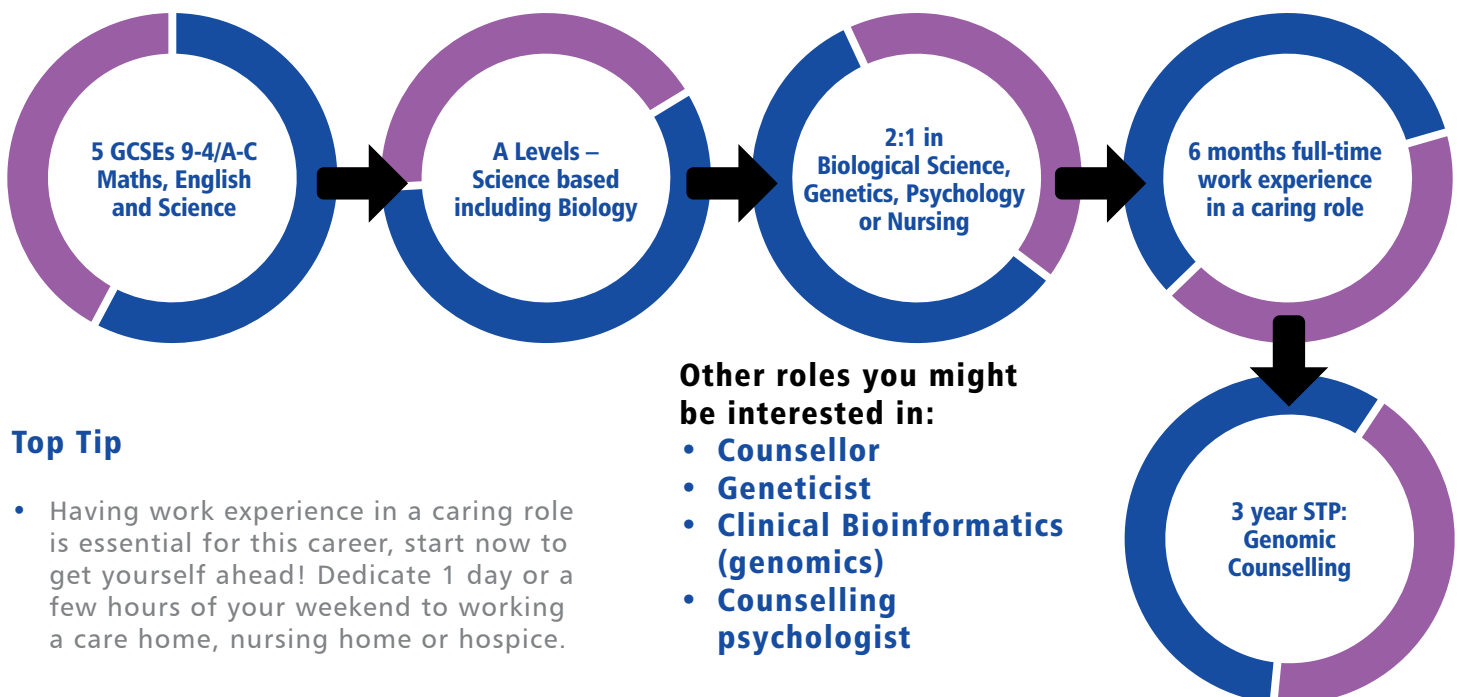
Genetic testing is being used more and more often in the NHS, and this presents lots of ethical, psychological and social challenges. Genomic counsellors (also called genetic counsellors) examine genes and how they interact to help diagnose disease, determine prognosis, risk and select therapeutic options. They provide support, information and advice to inform patients so they can make the best decisions for them, their future and their families.

**Examples of situations a genomic counsellor would work in:**

- A child is born with several abnormalities thought to be genetic
- There is a family history of genetic disease or cancer
- Someone has been diagnosed with onset neurodegenerative disease
- Potential parents have decided to undergo genetic testing for carrier status

As a genomic counsellor you would work closely with patients and their families in specialist Regional Genetics Centre, as not all hospitals provide genetic testing. Your day-to-day role might be in a clinical setting but could also involve home visits too. This is actually a very caring role as you need to help people make often complex and difficult decisions about their health based on the information you have received from their genetic tests.

### What do I need to do to get into this career?



#### Top Tip

- Having work experience in a caring role is essential for this career, start now to get yourself ahead! Dedicate 1 day or a few hours of your weekend to working a care home, nursing home or hospice.

#### Other roles you might be interested in:

- **Counsellor**
- **Geneticist**
- **Clinical Bioinformatics (genomics)**
- **Counselling psychologist**

### AMAZING FACT 2:

- If all 46 chromosomes from one human body cell were combined and arranged lengthways, the total length would be 1.8 meters. That's one cell!!! Just one!!



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