

AUDIOLOGISTS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The term Audiologists is used to describe staff that historically may have been known as Hearing Aid Therapists, Audiological Scientists or Audiology Technicians.

Audiologists' work covers two main areas, diagnostic and rehabilitative. They diagnose the type and extent of hearing or balance disorders and appraise patients by evaluating their conditions while considering the patients needs.

Audiologists produce an individual rehabilitative programme in consultation with other professionals to maximise the patient's quality of life. This could include lip reading and other communication skills and involve tasks like testing, fitting and adjusting hearing aids for patients, and teaching patients how to use them. Audiologists also provide support and counselling and may have to manage patients with complex needs such as dual sensory loss or learning disabilities.

The majority of Audiologists are employed by the NHS although there are some Audiologists in the private sector, the majority of whom will be employed in high street practises (although some will be employed by local authorities or by voluntary organisations).

The term Audiologist can be used to describe Audiological Scientists - please see the separate Audiological Scientist occupation sheet for further information.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

NHS

To work in the NHS as an Audiologist, an individual who trained in the UK would be expected to have a BSc in Audiology approved by the British Academy of Audiology (BAA) or a Degree in a related subject followed by a post graduate diploma or Masters Degree in Audiology, again approved by the BAA.

Private

There are some minimum qualifications required to be a Hearing Aid Audiologist (Audiologists who test, fit or adjust hearing aids in the private sector) to gain registration with the hearing aid council, however the minimum requirements for registration fall below the work permit skills criteria.

There are no minimum qualifications for private sector Audiologists who do not work as Hearing Aid Audiologists. Audiologists may have worked up to an Audiologist post through experience gained as an Assistant Audiologist etc. The level of qualifications or experience Audiologists require should depend on the level of the role they are carrying out. The main educational route in the UK is a BSc in Audiology for the private and public sector. There were some older qualifications (BTEC and BAAT part 1 and 2) that have now been phased out but caseworkers may still see Audiologists with these qualifications.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

There is compulsory registration for Audiological Scientists. To find out more about this please see the Audiological Scientists occupation sheet.

There are currently no other registration requirement for Audiologists (who are not working as Audiological Scientists or Hearing Aid Audiologists in the private sector).

Audiologists can choose to register with the Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP) although Audiologists are not legally required to register with this professional body. RCCP registration has become a minimum requirement to gaining an Audiologist post within the NHS. The RCCP register can be viewed on line at <http://www.rccp.co.uk/>.

The HPC are planning to regulate all Audiologists (not just Audiological Scientists) in the future, however they have not confirmed when this profession will be regulated. To keep up to date with these developments please see their website at <http://www.hpc-uk.org/>.

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

Caseworkers should be aware that Audiologists are on the National Shortage Occupation List and therefore advertising is not required.

B&C

Jobs meet the skills criteria when they require the applicant to be RCCP registered (This includes all Audiologist posts within the NHS). Other posts may also have qualification/experience requirements that meet the criteria and caseworkers should assess these in the normal way.

Hearing Aid Audiologists **do not** currently meet the work permit criteria as the minimum entry requirements are below the skills criteria.

TWES

Training

This occupation is not suitable for TWES training.

Work Experience

This occupation is suitable for TWES work experience where the TWES criteria are met.

SALARY

The Agenda for Change pay scales are below. This is the principal pay structure for the NHS. All NHS salaries are based on a 37 ½ hour week.

| Band Level | Agenda for Change |
|---|--------------------------|
| Band 5 Audiologist | £19,683- £25,424 |
| Band 6 Specialists Audiologists | £23,458- £31,779 |
| Band 7 Advanced or team leader Audiologists | £28,313-£37,326 |
| Band 8 consultant Audiologists | £36,112-£43,335 |

The NHS Work Force Review team has confirmed that salaries in the private sector are broadly comparable to those in the public sector.

ADVERTISING

Caseworkers should be aware that Audiologists are on the National Shortage Occupation List and advertising is not required.

The British Journal of Audiology

Whurr Publishing Ltd
19b Compton Terrace
London
N1 2UN
Tel: 020 7359 5979

The Audiology Bulletin

Distributed to all UK Audiology departments

FURTHER INFORMATION

Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM)

Fairmount House
230 Tadcaster Road
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YO24 1ES
Tel: 01904 610821
Website: www.ipem.org.uk

British Academy of Audiology (BAA)

PO Box 346
Peterborough RM
PE6 7EG
Tel: 01733 253 976
E: Mail: admin@baaudiology.org
Web site: www.baaudiology.org.

ACS c/o Association of Clinical Biochemists

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Health Professions Council

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184 Kennington Park Road
London
SE11 4BU
020 7582 0866
Website: www.hpc-uk.org

NHS Careers

PO Box 2311
Bristol
BS2 2ZX
Tel: 0845 6060 655
Website: www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists (RCCP)

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Sovereign House
Gate Lane
Boldmere
Sutton Coldfield
Birmingham
B73 5TT
Tel: 0845 226 3064
Website: www.rccp.co.uk

Hearing Aid Council

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Fax: 020 3102 4476
Web: www.thehearingaidcouncil.org.uk

Skills for Health

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