

## Healthcare Science Assistant and Healthcare Science Associate Registers

### Briefing note

The Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS) is delighted to be opening its Healthcare Science (non-accredited) Assistant and Associate registers (non-accredited) to individuals who have successfully completed the Level 2 Assistant or Level 4 Associate apprenticeship.

The AHCS is a single overarching body for the entire UK Healthcare Science workforce, working tirelessly alongside the healthcare science professional bodies and with all four UK countries to promote and celebrate the fantastic work delivered by the workforce wherever they may work. The AHCS regulates four out of the five career levels in healthcare science, with registers at the assistant, associate, practitioner, and higher specialist scientist levels. The Healthcare and Care Professions Council statutorily regulates the clinical scientist level.

We would love you to join our Assistant or Associate Register and have provided a little more information below which we hope is helpful in making your decision.

#### ***How much does it cost to join the Healthcare Science Assistant or Associate register?***

There will be no charge if a practitioner joins the register before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. From 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 there will be a fee of £15. After the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 there will be an annual registration fee of £30.

#### ***Why should you join the register?***

Joining the AHCS Register demonstrates your commitment to maintaining competency and high standards of conduct, providing assurance for employers, patients and the public. Being on the Register also helps to strengthen the profession as a whole, helping the Academy to raise the profile of all healthcare science professionals and their significant contribution to patient care, clinical excellence and healthcare advances. As a registrant you will access to several benefits including the Registrants' Newsletter and the Academy's Leadership Journal which aims to encourage an interest in leadership amongst the healthcare science workforce, by showcasing examples of how leadership can influence and support excellence in innovation and benefitting patient care. Though you may not be at that stage in your career, the journal makes for an interesting read and could offer a different perspective and inspire ideas for the future.

All AHCS registrants must work to the standards set out in our Good Scientific Practice document and our Standards of Proficiency, and we have developed standards specifically for the Assistant and the Associate levels. These standards have been designed to guide you in your practice and give confidence to your employers and the public that you are working to the highest of standards and are part of a well-trained, caring and professional workforce. The standards are available at:

<https://www.ahcs.ac.uk/education-training/apprenticeships/>

***What does 'successful completion of the relevant apprenticeship mean?***

You must have passed either the Level 2 Diploma in Healthcare Science or Level 4 Diploma in Healthcare Science and the relevant end point assessment. Once you have completed the end-point assessment, the National School of Healthcare Science as the end point assessment organisation will apply for Certificate of Completion on your behalf. The Certificate will be sent to you by the Government's Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

***How do I apply for registration?***

To join the register please go to the relevant register link below to set up your AHCS registration account and complete your application details. You will need to upload a copy of your Apprenticeship Completion certificate sent to you by the Government's ESFA.

Healthcare Science Assistant's Register - <https://hsassis.ahcs.ac.uk/>

Healthcare Science Associate's Register - <https://hsassoc.ahcs.ac.uk/>

***What does 'non-accredited' means?***

The Healthcare Science Associate and Assistant Registers are held by the Academy for Healthcare Science. But, unlike its Healthcare Science Practitioner and Higher Specialist Scientist Register they are not yet accredited by the [Professional Standards Authority \(PSA\)](#). However, the Academy treats all registrants on their healthcare science registers the same and have the same expectations of them.

The Academy will consider applying for PSA accreditation once the registers are established fully.