

## Phlebotomist

Phlebotomists are clinical support workers who take blood samples from patients, usually in a hospital or clinic setting. They send the samples to a laboratory which are used to help in the diagnosis of illness.

### The Work

You would:

- check the requests for blood samples on the computer
- explain to the patient what you are going to do and reassure nervous patients
- choose the best place to take blood (usually the inner elbow) and tie a tight band (tourniquet) which will help the vein to stand out
- select the correct colour-coded bottles (that attach to the needle) according to the number and type of tests required
- insert a hypodermic syringe into the vein, attach the bottle and draw off the blood, repeating for each type of bottle required
- label the blood sample bottle with the patient's details and send the sample to the appropriate laboratory
- apply pressure and a small plaster over the puncture wound
- enter the records on the computer
- possibly help out with other laboratory assistant duties.

### Pay

Under the NHS Agenda for Change pay scales salaries for phlebotomists are on Band 2, £19,609 to £21,615 a year. Senior phlebotomists are on Band 3, £21,709 to £23,603 a year. The current pay scales are from April 2021.

### Conditions

- You usually work 37.5 hours a week, Monday to Friday.
- You work in outpatient clinics, wards or in health centres.
- You might work occasional weekends or holidays on a rota basis.
- Part time work is possible.
- You might have to work under pressure, dealing with a queue of patients.
- You wear a white tunic, plastic apron and plastic gloves.
- There may be a slight risk of a needlestick injury and HIV or hepatitis infection.
- You may have to be immunised against Hepatitis B.

### Getting In

- There are no formal entry requirements but you may need some subjects at National 4 or 5, or a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) Health Care Support (Clinical) at (SCQF Level 6).
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact Disclosure Scotland for details on the type you would need.

- Contact your local National Health Service (NHS) area Board and ask about trainee posts.
- You can find NHS job vacancies in Scotland by visiting [NHS Scotland Recruitment](#).

## What Does It Take

You should have:

- a steady hand and good dexterity
- a responsible attitude to health, safety and hygiene
- good communication skills
- good interpersonal skills to cope with nervous patients
- a careful approach to detail
- teamworking skills
- an interest in science and technology.

You should be able to:

- follow set procedures
- handle sensitive and confidential information
- work accurately even under pressure.

## Training

- Training is on the job, which can take up to six months.
- It includes practical experience and training with patients including babies, children and older people.
- It includes theoretical aspects such as codes of practice.
- You might do first aid training.
- At the end you may get a Certificate of Competence.

## Getting On

- You would keep your knowledge and skills up to date with in house training.
- The National Association of Phlebotomists run short training courses for working phlebotomists.
- After experience you could progress to phlebotomy supervisor, senior phlebotomist, team leader, trainer or manager.

## Contacts

### Disclosure Scotland

Tel: 03000 2000 40

Email: [response@disclosurescotland.gov.scot](mailto:response@disclosurescotland.gov.scot)

Website: [www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland](http://www.mygov.scot/organisations/disclosure-scotland)

Twitter: @DisclosureScot

### National Association of Phlebotomists

Tel: 020 7833 8784

Email: [phlebotomy@btinternet.com](mailto:phlebotomy@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.phlebotomy.org](http://www.phlebotomy.org)

**NHS Scotland Careers**

Website: [www.careers.nhs.scot](http://www.careers.nhs.scot)

Website (2): [jobs.scot.nhs.uk](http://jobs.scot.nhs.uk)

Twitter: @NHSScotCareers

**Skills for Health**

Tel: 0207 388 8800

Email: [contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk](mailto:contactus@skillsforhealth.org.uk)

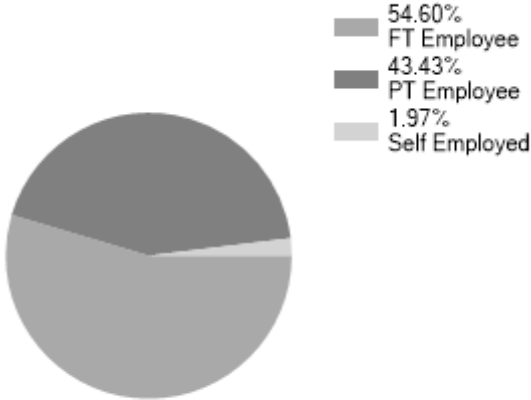
Website: [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk)

Twitter: @Skillsforhealth

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1](http://www.facebook.com/skillsforhealth1)

Statistics

Employment Status UK %



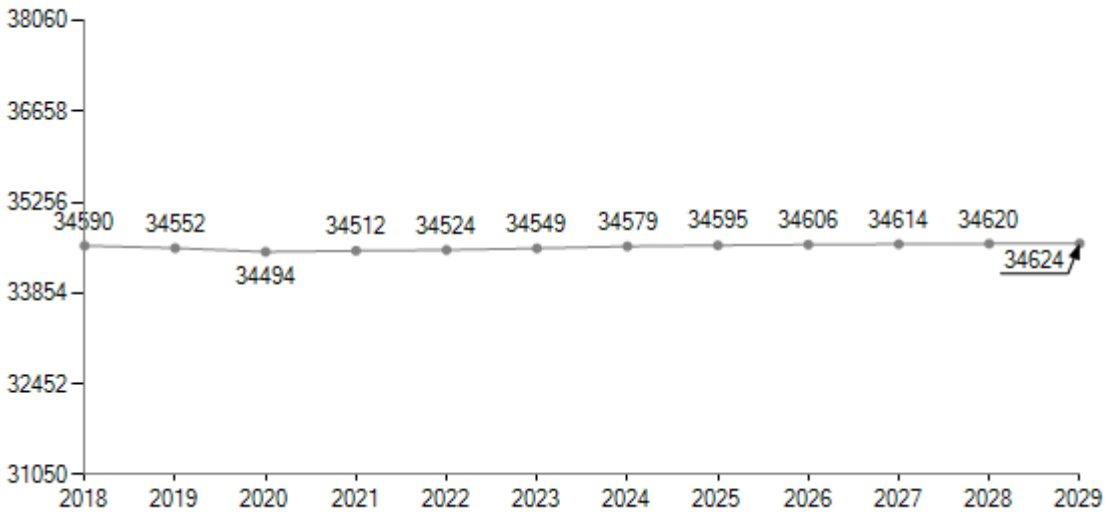
Past Unemployment - Scotland

Date	Unemployed
Dec 2018	0.05%

LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [EMSI UK](#)