

## Cardiac Physiologist

Cardiac physiologists are involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with heart disease. They set up equipment, carry out procedures and record and analyse the results.

### The Work

You could be:

- monitoring blood pressure and heartbeat rate to decide if it is safe for a patient to undergo tests
- carrying out procedures such as echocardiographs (ECG) (using ultrasound to obtain pictures of the heart's structure or valves) and cardiac catheterisation (passing a rod, or catheter, through blood vessels or heart chambers and injecting them with dye to show on an x-ray)
- using specialised and complex equipment, such as cardiac ultrasound scanners and intra aortic balloon pumps
- carrying out exercise tolerance tests on patients, using ECG equipment to monitor heart rate while they exercise on a treadmill
- during exercise tolerance testing, advising if it is safe for patients to continue with the test
- selecting a suitable pacemaker for a surgeon to insert in a patient
- adjusting and fine-tuning the pacemaker once it has been inserted
- analysing and interpreting data and supplying physiological reports to the cardiologist or surgeon who has to make decisions about treatment
- working as part of a team with cardiographers, doctors and nurses.

### Pay

Clinical physiologists (Cardiac) who work for the NHS are on Agenda for Change pay scales. The current pay scales are from April 2025. They generally start on Band 5, £33,247 to £41,424 a year.

Specialist cardiac physiologists are paid on Band 6, £41,608 to £50,702 a year. Team managers are on Band 7, £50,861 to £59,159 a year.

Experienced cardiac physiologists can earn over £40,000 in private healthcare establishments.

### Conditions

- You would work in the cardiology department of a hospital, in the outpatient clinics, wards or operating theatre.
- Working hours are normally regular, but you may have to work some weekends and evenings, or be on call for emergencies.
- You would usually wear a uniform.
- There might be some lifting of heavy equipment.
- You would work with patients of all ages.

### Getting In

- You should look for a position as an NHS employed practitioner trainee in Cardiac Physiology, where you would study for a relevant degree such as Physiology, Sports Science or Biomedical Science. Look out for trainee positions on [NHS Scotland Recruitment](#).
- You require 3 or 4 Highers at BBC or BCCC with at least 2 from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics. You would also need National 5 Maths or Physics.
- Both trainee and qualified posts are advertised in local press, the NHS jobs websites, or the [Society for Cardiological Science and Technology \(SCST\)](#) website.
- 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.

## What Does It Take

You should be:

- interested in anatomy and physiology
- good at science and maths
- able to concentrate for long periods
- good at analysing information
- good at following instructions.

You should have:

- high levels of accuracy and attention to detail
- good hand to eye co-ordination and manual dexterity
- good communication skills
- a calm, confident and caring manner
- good skills with technology.

## Training

- The training programme lasts 4 years and involves distance learning and block release while employed as a practitioner-level trainee with the NHS.
- Under the supervision of senior staff, trainees gain experience in more complex procedures while keeping a logbook. They can join the SCST as student members and become associate members when they graduate.
- The RCCP runs a voluntary register for cardiac physiologists. It is recommended that you do register. Check the RCCP website for up to date information.

## Getting On

- Job prospects are good as there is a shortage of qualified staff in the UK.
- Qualified cardiac physiologists can move on to supervisory or managerial posts.
- There are also openings in research.
- You can study at postgraduate level. Promotion is easier with postgraduate qualifications.

## Contacts

**Association for Laboratory Medicine**

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

**NHS Scotland Careers**

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

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

**Physiological Society**

Tel: 020 7269 5710

Email: [contactus@physoc.org](mailto:contactus@physoc.org)

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

X: @ThePhySoc

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

**Registration Council for Clinical Physiologists**

Tel: 01905 885350

Email: [rccpadmin@rccp.co.uk](mailto:rccpadmin@rccp.co.uk)

Website: [www.rccp.co.uk](http://www.rccp.co.uk)

**Society for Cardiological Science and Technology (SCST)**

Tel: 0845 838 6037

Email: [admin@scst.org.uk](mailto:admin@scst.org.uk)

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

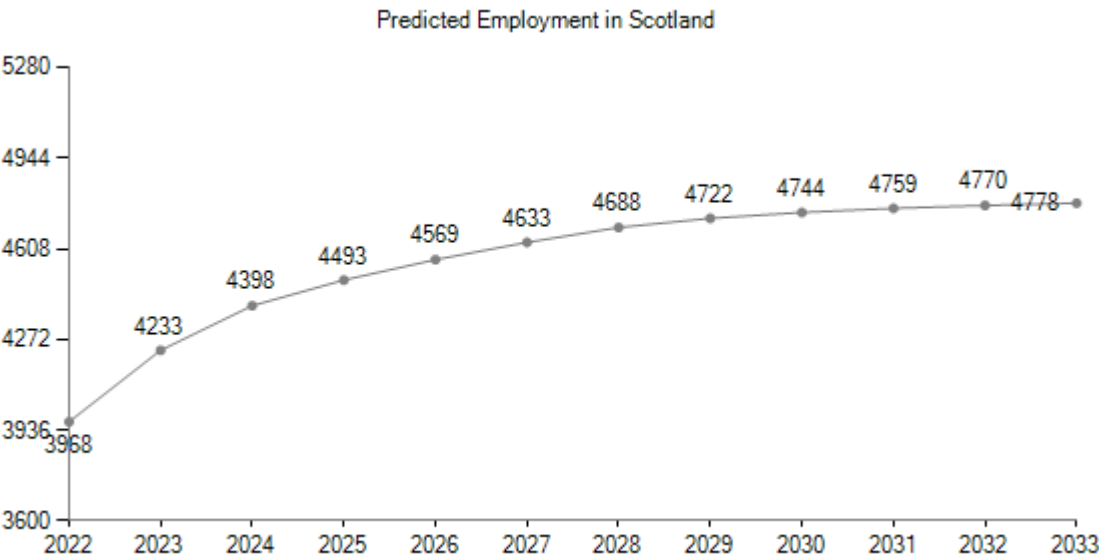
X: @SCSTcouncil

Statistics

Employment Status : Not available this career.

Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)