# South East Imaging Medical Physics Technologist Funding 2024/25

## Information for NHS organisations on how to access this funding, including the application process.

For any queries about this funding or details within this document, please contact the **NHS England South East Cancer and Diagnostic Programme**, part of the **Workforce, Training & Education directorate**, [england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net](mailto:england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net)

**Key Messages**

## 2024/25 funding for the NHS England South East Cancer & Diagnostics Programme [part of the Workforce, Training & Education Directorate] has not yet been confirmed. We are hopeful that the budget will include funding to support Medical Physics Technologistsand we are therefore progressing with applications, which will be reviewed and provisionally approved subject to funding confirmation from the National Team.

This document details the 2024/25 funding offer for Medical Physics Technologists, including Level 6 Medical Physics Healthcare Science Apprenticeships or IPEM Clinical Technologist Training Scheme, expressions of interest.

The funding offer is designed to continue the South East’s active development and support of apprenticeships and technologist training provision within Healthcare Science (HCS).

**This funding**

* Is available to support employees to undertake a Training Programme leading to registration as a Clinical Technologists / Practitioners [RCT or AHCS].
* There are 2 training options which NHSE is supporting via a training grant.

1. Healthcare Science Practitioner Level 6 Apprenticeship in Medical Physics.

* Level 6 Medical Physics Apprenticeship Programme. This is delivered by the [University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE).](https://courses.uwe.ac.uk/ST0413B/healthcare-science-practitioner-medical-physics-technology)
* Available funding for the apprenticeship route is a **£10,404** grant.

1. IPEM Clinical Technologist Training Scheme – [IPEM Website.](https://www.ipem.ac.uk/learn/ipem-clinical-technologist-training-scheme/)

* Available funding for the IPEM route is a **£2,500** grant.
* Funding utilisation includes supporting trainee expenses, e.g., travel to the education provider.
* It is being offered to Trusts that sit within the South East Imaging Network footprints, including Milton Keynes University Hospitals but excluding Trusts within Dorset ICS.

**Deadline for funding applications**

* The application window will open early March 2024 and will close at **9am** on **Tuesday 2 April 2024** to support funding being transferred in June 2024 via the NHSE Education Contract schedule where possible.
* It is possible that a second application round will run later in the year, subject to available funding but at this stage we aren’t able to confirm this.

Funding is required to be spent and fully utilised by 31 March 2025, and chosen courses and formal education must start before 31 March 2025, where applicable.

For any queries and to submit applications, please email [england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net](mailto:england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net)

**Overview**

NHS England is committed to continuing the increase of Healthcare Scientists contributing to clinical imaging services. We are looking to continue this support for 2024/25 and are writing to invite you to apply for a training grant.

This offer includes either:

* Training grant towards **a Healthcare Science Practitioner Level 6 Apprenticeship in Medical Physics;** or
* Training grant towards the **IPEM Clinical Technologist Training Scheme**.

It has been highlighted by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) workforce intelligence reports in radiotherapy physics, nuclear medicine, and diagnostic radiology that there are significant shortages in the medical physics technologist workforce and thus a need to support employers to train staff at this level.

Working with South East Trust colleagues, NHSE is offering employers an opportunity of a contributory one-off training grant per trainee (pro-rata) to enable several options for those wishing to undertake a training programme within the workplace resulting in registration. These routes to be either a Clinical Technologist / Practitioner include the IPEM technologist training scheme, RCT equivalence route or level 6 Healthcare Science Apprenticeships. Details for these routes can be found on the website [IPEM - becoming a clinical technologist.](https://www.ipem.ac.uk/your-career/getting-started-on-a-career-in-mpce/becoming-a-clinical-technologist/)

**Training courses**

Courses are available from this autumn and interested applicants are advised to secure early agreement with their employer, and provisional course acceptance. In parallel, employers are asked to apply to NHSE SE Cancer & Diagnostics Programme [Workforce, Training and Education] who will review applications and agree funding with the employer and relevant Imaging Network.

**Healthcare Science Practitioner Level 6 Apprenticeship in Medical Physics**

At the time of writing, February 2024, there continues to be only one provider for a Level 6 Medical Physics Apprenticeship Programme; this is delivered by the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE) and more information pertaining to the course can be found on the [UWE website.](https://courses.uwe.ac.uk/ST0413B/healthcare-science-practitioner-medical-physics-technology)

The NHSE Apprenticeships training grant provides an additional source of funding on top of the Apprenticeships Levy to help establish career pathways into Healthcare Science and increase the diagnostic workforce contributing to the improvement and delivery of services to benefit patients.

Courses are available from this autumn [September] and interested applicants are advised to secure early agreement with their employer, and provisional course acceptance.

**IPEM Clinical Technologist Training Scheme**

The training scheme identifies an offer of a robust, externally validated education and training framework for Clinical Technologists. It is a recognised scheme within the core scopes of practice and ensuring a workforce fit to practice. More information pertaining to the scheme can be found on the [IPEM Website.](https://www.ipem.ac.uk/learn/ipem-clinical-technologist-training-scheme/)

Enrolment onto the Training Scheme is now limited to two intakes per year, October & April. With a standard duration of the scheme being 24 months so that an assessment and viva date can be determined.

**The funding offer**

The offer to Trusts for each trainee comprises:

* **£10,404 pro-rata training grant (Healthcare Science Practitioner Level 6 route); or**
* **£2,500 training grant (IPEM Clinical Technologist route).**

Funding is required to be spent and fully utilised by 31 March 2025. The trainee must be employed by an organisation and have started their training programme **before** the end of March 2025. Please note that this funding offer is only available for learners in the **first year** of their apprenticeship programme.

The training grant must be used to support the training of the Medical Physics Technologist trainee. For example, it could be used for:

* infrastructure costs such as practice supervision and/or educational supervision or any other costs associated with the trainee successfully completing the training programme.
* to pay for a trainee’s travel expenses related to their training programme.
* to pay for a trainee’s education and training courses.
* to pay fees related to the IPEM RCT route.

Training grants are not intended to cover salary costs of the apprentice which would need to be met by the employer. Course fees are covered by employer access to the apprenticeship levy.

Depending on the number of applications, not all may be able to be supported. A review and prioritisation exercise will take place by the Cancer and Diagnostic programme team with healthcare science colleagues where required.

Payments will be made pro-rata via the NHSE Education Contract Schedule to the employing organisationand will not be made until an apprentice name and further details relating to their programme is provided.

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| **Training Grant** | **Total** | **Payment schedule** |
| **Option** – HCS Practitioner L6 Apprenticeship | £10,404 | £6,104 – provided in payment #1 [2024/25]  £4,300 – provided in payment #2 [2025/26] |
| **Option** - IPEM | £2,500 | Provided in full in payment #1 [2024/25] |

**How to access this funding**

Please note, that applications must not be submitted by individual learners themselves; all applications must be submitted on behalf of the named learner e.g., by a line manager / head of department / education lead etc.

**Completion and submission of online application form.**

**Deadline – 9am on Tuesday 2 April 2024**

* Please complete [Medical Physics Technologists application form](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/healtheducationyh/application-form-4) and submit this via email by 9am on Tuesday 2 April 2024.

All applications will be reviewed by the NHSE SE Cancer and Diagnostics Programme team [Workforce, Training and Education], alongside NHSE South East Healthcare Science colleagues and others as appropriate.

If you are unable to meet the 2 April 2024 deadline, there may be a second funding round in June 2024; details will be shared closer to the time.

**Expectations of organisations upon application of funding**

* If approved, all investment will be subject to reporting requirements (outlined below).
* If approved, that all funding is managed appropriately in line with individual organisation’s financial management and assurance processes.

**Reporting and monitoring investment**

Organisations receiving this funding will be required to provide twice-yearly updates [Sept 2024 and Feb/March 2025] relating to the status of each individual learner; guidance and templates will be provided later in the year.

**Course completion**

Following completion, the participant will be expected to demonstrate capability of their new skills into local service provision.

Participants may also be able to evidence career progression, for example by re-grading into a Practitioner role. Continued clinical and academic progression will be important to support the development of expertise and enable Medical Physics Technologist benefitting from this scheme to fully participate in clinical imaging services.

**Further Information**

**Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine [IPEM] – Report on the 2021 Survey of the Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Protection Workforce**

IPEM published an [IPEM intelligence report 2021](https://www.ipem.ac.uk/media/d4njxfj4/diagnostic-radiology-and-radiation-protection-workforce-report-on-2021-survey-final.pdf) outlining the collation of survey data from Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Protection (DR&RP) services in the UK, including NHS (58 services) and Independent providers (6 services). The data was gathered on two professional groups: Clinical Scientists and Clinical Technologist.

**NHS England – NHS Long Term Workforce Plan (2023)**

The long-awaited [NHS England Long Term Workforce Plan](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/nhs-long-term-workforce-plan-v1.2.pdf) was published in 2023, outlining the case for change for all NHS workforce to deliver more patient care than ever before. This plan focuses on three priority areas of Train, Retain and Reform, which aims to make sustainable progress on core priorities for patients.

**Who to contact if you have any queries on this offer?**

The NHSE SE Cancer and Diagnostics Programme - [england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net](mailto:england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net)

**Frequently Asked Questions**

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| **Question** | **Response** |
| **Which professional groups can utilise this funding?** | Funding is available to support trainees registered on a training programme leading to Register of Clinical Technologists / Practitioners [RCT or AHCS] currently working in a South East NHS Trust. |
| **What is the aim of the funding?** | The purpose of this funding is to: |
| * support meeting challenges in the radiography workforce |
| * promote the tangible benefits apprenticeships bring to the NHS |
| **How can this funding be utilised?** | * training and supervision expenses |
| * clinical supervision/mentorship |
| * travel and subsistence expenses |
| **What can’t this funding be used for?** | * Course fees: course fees are covered by the apprenticeship levy |
| * Apprentice salary: Training grants are not intended to cover salary costs of the apprentice which would need to be met by the employer. Course fees are covered by employer access to the apprenticeship levy. |
| **What is the funding period?** | The funding period is 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 |
| **Can this funding be used for courses which don’t finish in 2024/25?** | Yes. A large number of apprenticeship programmes last longer than 12 months. The important date to note is that the learner must have started on programme before 31 March 2025. |
| **Is there funding for Year 2 and Year 3 [if applicable]** | No; NHSE training grant is to support the apprentice in their first year on programme. |
| **Can the funding be used to support apprentices who have already received funding from NHSE via a 23/24 training grant?** | No, this training grant is to support apprentices who start the first year of their apprenticeship programme between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025. |
| **Can we use the training grant to support more than one apprentice?** | No, the training grant total unit cost of £10,404 is nationally agreed and for use to support one individual apprentice only. |
| **What are the requirements of accepting this funding** | * all investment will be subject to reporting requirement |
| * all funding must be managed appropriately in line with individual organisation’s financial management and assurance processes. |
| * Managers must support their staff to access training |