

Environmental health practitioner

Environmental health practitioners (EHP) use their scientific and technical ability to ensure people can live, work and play in safe, healthy environments.

As an environmental health practitioner (EHP), you'll develop, implement, and enforce health policies using specialist technical skills and knowledge to maintain and safeguard standards relating to people's health and wellbeing. Depending on your employer, your role may involve close liaison with officers from council departments, as well as with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Alternative job titles include officer, specialist, adviser, educator, consultant, manager or enforcement officer.

Skills:

- excellent written and oral communication skills
- confidence in dealing with the public
- good report-writing skills
- a strong scientific ability and technical understanding
- the ability to be assertive, diplomatic and sensitive to other people's views
- good decision-making skills
- the ability to work independently and as a member of a team



Qualifications:

To become a qualified EHP, you must obtain an honours degree or Masters in environmental health from a university accredited by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH). Accredited courses are available in full time, part time or integrated/sandwich formats, and will provide you with broad training across all the areas of environmental health. After graduating, you'll go on to complete a placement and a portfolio, before becoming a fully qualified EHP. If you have at least a second-class honours degree in another subject, or equivalent qualifications and experience, you may be able to enrol on an accredited postgraduate MSc course. To do this, you'll usually need a degree in a science-based discipline, or a subject closely related to environmental health. If you've completed an accredited foundation degree programme, you may be able to top up to an accredited BSc degree. Without a degree, it may be possible to work as an environmental health technician while studying part time for a degree in environmental health.

Working hours:

You'll usually work 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. However, given the nature of the job, evening or weekend work may be necessary at times. Local authorities will generally offer flexible working opportunities, including part-time work, job share, reduced or compressed hours and working from home.

Salary:

- Typical starting salaries range between £25,000 and £40,000.
- Senior or managerial level salaries, e.g. after ten to 15 years in the role, fall between £38,000 and £60,000.
- Higher salaries may be possible in more advanced posts, such as head of department.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/environmental-health-practitioner>

