



## NSF Health Sciences Pharma Biotech Qualified Person (QP)

training provides practical, focused, face-to-face instruction from seasoned professionals and University lecturers who are acknowledged experts in their fields.

Our QP training began in earnest in 1990 when the QP Study Guide was being developed. Today, NSF Health Sciences' QP training has helped over 250 professionals gain QP status.

The rigorous course can be used to gain postgraduate qualifications up to MSc level. It has also been accepted by health authorities in several EU member states as sufficient training to allow non-pharmacists to become QPs.

The course acts as continuing professional development for quality professionals from other disciplines such as auditing, manufacturing, QC, engineering and existing and prospective QPs. It provides the knowledge and practice QPs will need to face in their ever demanding roles.

Special Offer for  
NHS Employees

**50% discount**  
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our services:



### NSF Health Sciences Pharma Biotech

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Dr Attia Hasnain, Quality Assurance Manager at Barts Health NHS Trust, discusses her experience with NSF Health Sciences' QP program.



### What first made you think about becoming a QP?

Whilst at Aventis Pharma, I became increasingly interested in the quality of medicines we produced and wanted to know who in the company was working on behalf of the patient to personally ensure the medicine's safety, quality and control. This interest led me to discover the importance of the role and responsibilities of the QP, which led me to want to become one. As a pharmacist, I felt my degree and background would help enormously in achieving this goal. When I was given the opportunity in my current role as QA Manager at Barts Health NHS Trust to pursue my ambition to become a QP, I jumped at it!

### What research did you carry out into training to become a QP?

In deciding which training provider to use, I looked at established QP training providers and reviewed what percentage of their QP trainees successfully passed their QP viva. I also looked at the support provided to QP trainees and asked a number of QPs who had used different training providers about their personal experiences. Based on this review, I decided to undertake the modules I needed with NSF Health Sciences.

### How did you sell the idea to your management?

For a number of years the vast majority of QPs within the NHS were QPs who came through the transitional route. A number of these QPs are due to retire in the next few years and the implication of this has been recognised and been of concern to NHS Trusts holding MIA(IMP) licences. I was therefore able to explain the benefit of my becoming a QP to our NHS Trust.

### Why did you choose NSF Health Sciences?

I liked the way the course was organised in modular form which gives flexibility for trainees to pick and choose only the modules they need. This also provided good financial incentive and value for money for my hospital Trust as they only had to pay for the modules I needed.

What did you enjoy most about the training course? I found the teaching style of the NSF Health Sciences tutors to be very effective. The combination of lectures by very experienced experts from different areas (such as the pharmaceutical industry, academia and regulatory agencies) and workshops promoted an excellent learning environment. The workshops also provided an excellent opportunity for trainees to network, build good relationships and make friends and contacts.

I also very much liked the way the lecture notes for each module were presented in folders with detailed notes as well as shorter handouts. The tutors went through the handouts and trainees could then, in their own time, follow up the topic in detail using the notes. All notes for each topic in the study guide were up to date, of excellent quality and in just the right amount of detail and length.

NSF Health Sciences also allocated a personal tutor to each trainee. I feel it is extremely helpful for trainees to have someone with whom they can discuss, in confidence, any issues they might be experiencing. My tutor was very experienced and knowledgeable, and I valued and appreciated his support and advice.

NSF Health Sciences offer a practice viva for trainees, which was an extremely useful exercise. I not only obtained good feedback on my performance and areas I needed to focus on, but it also helped boost my confidence.

For more information on our QP training, contact our QP Administrator, Stella Pearson-Smith, at [StellaPearsonSmith@nsf.org](mailto:StellaPearsonSmith@nsf.org).

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