

Entry requirements, skills and interests (GIM)

This page provides useful information about the entry requirements needed for this specialty up to and including [foundation training](#) [1]. It also includes information on the skills and interests you will need.

Entry requirements

Prior to starting your specialty training you need to have completed a medical degree followed by the two-year foundation programme [2] and then two or three years of core training. If you have already made a decision to pursue a career in GIM, try to get experience in the specialty or related areas such as A&E.

To find information about getting into medical school, visit our [applying to medicine](#) pages [3].

To find information about the Foundation Programme, visit our [applying for foundation training](#) [4] page.

As well as being a specialty in its own right, general internal medicine can also be entered by doctors whose main specialty is:

- acute internal medicine [5]
- cardiology [6]
- endocrinology and diabetes [7]
- gastroenterology [8]
- geriatric medicine [9]
- renal medicine [10]
- respiratory medicine [11]

Skills and interests

The skills and interests you will need include:

- working effectively under pressure and making rapid assessments and urgent diagnoses
- managing and reducing risk including reporting and learning from errors, adverse events (including 'never events'), incidents and near misses
- stabilising patients, prioritising urgent clinical situations and referring patients

appropriately

- using investigational resources appropriately (imaging, laboratory & physiological)
- communicating effectively with patients, relatives and other clinical staff
- advocating on behalf of patients where required
- leading and working in multidisciplinary teams

If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work. The same will be true if you're applying for a university course funded by the NHS.

Find out more about NHS values. ^[12]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/general-internal-medicine/entry-requirements-skills-and-interests>

Links

[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training

[2] <http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/studying-medicine/applying-medical-school>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/information-doctors/foundation-training-programme/applying-foundation>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medicine/acute-internal-medicine>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medicine/cardiology>

[7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medicine/endocrinology-and-diabetes>

[8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medicine/gastroenterology>

[9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medicine/geriatric-medicine>

[10] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medicine/renal-medicine>

[11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medicine/respiratory-medicine>

[12] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/working-health/nhs-constitution>