

Entry requirements, skills and interests (occupational medicine)

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

Before you train as an occupational physician you must complete a degree in medicine and have obtained a MBBS or equivalent qualification. [Find out about getting into medical school.](#) [2]

You then need to complete a [two-year foundation programme](#) [3] and then two or three years of core training. After successfully completing your first year of [foundation training](#) [1] you become eligible for registration as a doctor with the General Medical Council (GMC). [Foundation training](#) [1] includes undertaking rotations in a range of specialties.

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

Skills and interests

Occupational physicians need:

- the ability to communicate effectively with people from a wide range of backgrounds including employers and trade unions
- effective clinical and diagnostic skills
- a [holistic](#) [5] approach to medicine (clinical/ psychological/social) and the wider aspects of health
- good organisational skills with the ability to multi-task
- good problem-solving and decision-making skills
- the ability to function effectively within teams and as part of an organisation
- flexibility to adapt to different situations and industries
- a strong interest in working environments and people's welfare at work, both physical and psychological
- an understanding of relevant government legislation relating to work
- self-reliance and emotional resilience
- scientific curiosity

- leadership ability

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.](#) ^[6]

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

Links

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

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

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

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

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Holistic>

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