

Ophthalmology

Ophthalmologists are doctors who care for patients with eye conditions.

They diagnose, treat and prevent disorders of the eyes and visual system, using medical and surgical skills.

Female ophthalmologist checking eye

Life as an ophthalmologist

You'll look for possible links with other conditions within the body. You'll treat patients from premature babies to the most senior members of the community. They will generally be well, without life-threatening conditions, but eye conditions are common and can cause anxiety. You'll need to be sympathetic and reassuring.

You'll be involved in a mix of medical and surgical work and will treat a range of conditions from common issues such as cataracts, glaucoma or squints through to infectious eye disease and chronic diseases such as age-related macular degeneration (deterioration of the macula, the central area of the retina).

You'll run specialty, general or acute clinics, work in treatment clinics using lasers and other technology or in a specialist eye theatre, performing operations such as cataract surgery. You will regularly work with a range of other clinical specialists.

You'll mainly work regular hours, with occasional out-of-hours work to cover eye emergencies.

A surge in exciting new technology and treatments in recent years means you'll be able to manage patients with eye diseases in a much more effective way and use the latest surgical procedures to perform day case operations. You'll often be able to see the effects of your treatment almost immediately.

How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) ^[1] after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) ^[2] and consultants on the ['Pay for doctors'](#) ^[3] page.

How about the benefits?

- make a difference
- flexible and part-time working
- high income early in your career
- work anywhere in the world
- excellent pension scheme
- good holiday entitlement
- NHS discounts in shops and restaurants

Must-have skills

- excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families
- emotional resilience, a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure
- teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams
- problem-solving and diagnostic skills
- outstanding organisational ability and effective decision-making skills
- first-class time and resource management for the benefit of patients
- a high degree of manual dexterity
- superb hand-eye co-ordination, excellent vision, and visuospatial awareness
- physical stamina to cope with the demands of surgery

Entry requirements

Your first step is medical school. Typically, you'll need excellent GCSEs and three A or A* passes at A level including chemistry for a five-year undergraduate degree in medicine. Many medical schools also ask for biology and others may require maths or physics.

If you already have a degree, you could study for a four-year postgraduate degree in medicine.

You'll need to pass an interview and admissions test. You'll be asked to show how you demonstrate the NHS values such as compassion and respect.

Some medical schools look to recruit a mix of students from different backgrounds and geographical areas, so your educational and economic background and family circumstances could be considered as part of your application.

"Ophthalmology appealed to me because it combines medicine and microsurgery and is also one of the few specialisms where you can see the effects of treatment almost immediately."

[Read Kavita's story](#) ^[4].

What are my chances of starting a career in ophthalmology?

In 2020 there were 430 applications for 75 specialty training places (a competition ratio ^[5] of 5.73).

How to become an ophthalmologist

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year foundation programme ^[6] where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training ^[7] to become an ophthalmologist, which will take a minimum of seven years.

You may be able to train part time, for example for health reasons or if you have family or caring responsibilities.

Where a career in ophthalmology can take you

You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as eye development and diseases in children, retinal disease and its onset in patients with conditions like diabetes, or oculoplastic surgery (plastic surgery around the eye)
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector

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○ Consultant Ophthalmologist - Paediatric Ophthalmology

Hull, HU3 2JZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist - Paediatric Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[8]

- **Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology**

Bangor, LL59 2PW

Salary:

£59727.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[9]

- **Trust Grade Doctor - Ophthalmology**

Northampton, NN1 5BD

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Northampton General Hospital

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Grade Doctor - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[10]

- **Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology**

Huddersfield, HD3 3EA

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology**

Gorleston, NR31 6LA

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **Ophthalmology Consultant**

Ashford, TW15 3AA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Ashford & St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

- **Ophthalmology Scheduler**

East Grinstead, RH19 3DZ

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Scheduler job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Ophthalmology Assistant**

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Assistant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Speciality Doctor in Ophthalmology VR, Cornea & Anterior Segment**

Truro, TR1 3LJ

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Speciality Doctor in Ophthalmology VR, Cornea & Anterior Segment job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Healthcare Assistant - Ophthalmology**

Preston, PR5 6LF

Salary:

£23809.50

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Healthcare Assistant - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Glaucoma Nurse- Ophthalmology**

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Glaucoma Nurse- Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **Ophthalmology Administration Assistant**

Llantrisant, CF72 8XR

Salary:

£24433.00 to £26060.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Administration Assistant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology**

Rochdale, OL16 2UP

Salary:

£41673.55

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology**

Colchester, CO4 5JR

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Ophthalmology Senior Sister**

Gorleston, NR31 6LA

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Senior Sister job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology**

Preston, PR5 6BZ

Salary:

£41673.55

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Consultant in Ophthalmology**

Guildford, GU2 7XX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

- **WEC Administrator - Ophthalmology**

London, NW10 3RY

Salary:

£29176.00 to £30225.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for WEC Administrator - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Ophthalmology Registered Nurse**

London, NW1 5QH

Salary:

£35964.00 to £43780.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Registered Nurse job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Pharmacy Technician Specialist - Ophthalmology**

Southampton, SO16 6YD

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pharmacy Technician Specialist - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Senior Theatre Assistant - Ophthalmology**

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Theatre Assistant - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Corneal Locum Consultant Ophthalmology**

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Corneal Locum Consultant Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **Clinical Secretary in Ophthalmology**

Carmarthen, SA31 2AF

Salary:

£24433.00 to £26060.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Secretary in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **Patient Pathway Support - Ophthalmology**

Harrogate, HG2 7SX

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Patient Pathway Support - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **Ophthalmology Fellow in Paediatrics**

Nottingham, NG7 2UH

Salary:

£70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Fellow in Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Clinical Fellow in Oculoplastic Ophthalmology**

Leeds, LS9 7TF

Salary:

£70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow in Oculoplastic Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Band 4 - Assistant Practitioner, Ophthalmology**

Watford, WD18 0HB

Salary:

£27857.00 to £30570.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 - Assistant Practitioner, Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Locum Oculoplastic Consultant in Ophthalmology**

London, NW10 7NS

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Oculoplastic Consultant in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

- **Professional & Practice Development Practitioner (Ophthalmology)**

Carmarthen, SA31 2AF

Salary:

£46840.00 to £53602.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Professional & Practice Development Practitioner \(Ophthalmology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **Ophthalmology IVT & Clinical Pathway Coordinator**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology IVT & Clinical Pathway Coordinator job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[37]

- **Consultant - Ophthalmology - Medical Retina and Diabetic**

Truro, TR1 3LJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Ophthalmology - Medical Retina and Diabetic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[38]

- **Consultant in Ophthalmology (Paediatrics & Ocular Motility)**

Colchester, CO4 5JL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Ophthalmology \(Paediatrics & Ocular Motility\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[39]

- **Locum Consultant Cataract, General Ophthalmology & RAC**

Croydon, CR7 7YE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Cataract, General Ophthalmology & RAC job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **Consultant in Ophthalmology interest in Primary Care**

Bangor, LL57 2PW

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Ophthalmology interest in Primary Care job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[41]

- **Advanced Theatre Practitioner (Ophthalmology Theatres - PCEU Windsor)**

Windsor, SL4 3DP

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Theatre Practitioner \(Ophthalmology Theatres - PCEU Windsor\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Theatre Day Case - RGH**

Newport, NP20 2UB

Salary:

£30420.00 to £37030.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Theatre Day Case - RGH job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[43]

- **Locum Consultant in Ophthalmology s/i in Glaucoma**

Burton-On-Trent, DE13 0RB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Ophthalmology s/i in Glaucoma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[44]

- **Locum Cons Ophthalmology sub spec interest Oculoplastic/Thyroid**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Cons Ophthalmology sub spec interest Oculoplastic/Thyroid job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[45]

- **Band 3 Healthcare Assistant - Ophthalmology OPD (PCEU Windsor)**

Windsor, SL4 3DP

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 3 Healthcare Assistant - Ophthalmology OPD \(PCEU Windsor\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[46]

- **Sister/Charge Nurse (Ophthalmology - PCEU Windsor) - Fixed Term**

Windsor, SL4 3DP

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Sister/Charge Nurse \(Ophthalmology - PCEU Windsor\) - Fixed Term job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[47]

- **Staff Nurse Ophthalmology Outpatients Service - Band 5 (Internal Only)**

Victoria Road, Macclesfield, SK10 3BL

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Cheshire NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Staff Nurse Ophthalmology Outpatients Service - Band 5 \(Internal Only\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[48]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist**

Swansea, SA2 8QA

Salary:

£106600.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swansea Bay University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[window\)](#) ^[49]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist**

Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 0JR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[50]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist (Glaucoma)**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist \(Glaucoma\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[51]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist - Cornea / Glaucoma**

Chorely, PR7 1PP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist - Cornea / Glaucoma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[52]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist – Paediatric & Ocular Motility**

Gloucester, GL2 3NN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist – Paediatric & Ocular Motility job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[53]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist in Paediatric and Strabismus**

Taunton, TA1 5DA
Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist in Paediatric and Strabismus job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[54]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist sub-specialist interest in Cornea**

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist sub-specialist interest in Cornea job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[55]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist sub-specialist interest in Oculoplastic**

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist sub-specialist interest in Oculoplastic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[56]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist with Interest in Paediatrics & Strabismus**

Bournemouth, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist with Interest in Paediatrics & Strabismus job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[57]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist with interest in Medical Retina (DPoW)**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist with interest in Medical Retina \(DPoW\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[58]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist with an interest in Medical Glaucoma**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist with an interest in Medical Glaucoma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[59]

- **ENT Doctor**

Sheffield, S9 1XH

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[60]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Canterbury, CT1 1BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[61]

- **Specialty Doctor**

Cheltenham, GL53 0QJ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sue Ryder

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[62]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

London, SE14 6BL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[63]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Wandsworth, SW18 4WW

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[64]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Slough, SL1 2EJ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[65]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[66]

- **ENT Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[67]

- **Further information**

The [Royal College of Ophthalmologists](#) ^[68] has further information about being an ophthalmology doctor, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

And hear from people working in ophthalmology:

[A consultant ophthalmologist \(BMJ\)](#) ^[69]

[A consultant in ophthalmology talking about their specialty \(HEWM\)](#) ^[70]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Medical ophthalmology](#) ^[71]
- [Ophthalmic and vision science](#) ^[72]

- Neurosurgeon [73]
- Plastic surgery [74]

Source URL:<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/ophthalmology>

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