

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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○ Specialty Doctor Ophthalmology

Shoreham by Sea, BN43 6TQ

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[8]

- **Specialist Doctor in Ophthalmology**

Scarborough, YO12 6QL

Salary:

£96990.00 to £107155.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor in Acute Ophthalmology**

Manchester, M13 9WL

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor - Glaucoma & Neuro-Ophthalmology**

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Senior Locally Employed Doctor in Paediatric Ophthalmology**

Manchester, M13 9WL

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant in Ophthalmology**

Wrexham, LL13 7TD

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Nurse Practitioner Ophthalmology**

Great Yarmouth, NR31 6LA

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Bank - Consultant - Ophthalmology**

Essex, SS0 0RY

Salary:

£100.00 to £110.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Pharmacist - Ophthalmology**

Liverpool, L7 8YE

Salary:

£74290.00 to £85601.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Team Leader-Ophthalmology**

Exeter, EX1 2ED

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Leader-Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Staff Nurse - Ophthalmology**

Liverpool, L7 8YE

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology with interest in Medical Retina**

Liverpool, L7 8YE

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology with interest in Medical Retina job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Ophthalmology Fellow in Glaucoma**

Nottingham, NG7 2UH

Salary:

£70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts

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

- **Locum Consultant in Ophthalmology**

Abergele, LL22 8DP

Salary:

£116600.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

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

- **Neuro-Ophthalmology Fellow - QEHB**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:

£65048.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Bank Nurse Ophthalmology Injector**

Darlington, DL3 6HX

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Nurse Ophthalmology Injector job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Senior Pharmacist – Ophthalmology & Surgery**

Kingston, KT2 7QB

Salary:

£59490.00 to £66239.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Pharmacist – Ophthalmology & Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Advanced Clinical Practitioner - Paediatric Ophthalmology**

Frimley, GU16 7UJ

Salary:

£55877.00 to £62626.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Clinical Practitioner - Paediatric](#)

[Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Ophthalmology Fellow in Medical Retina**

Nottingham, NG7 2UH

Salary:

£70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Fellow in Medical Retina job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Healthcare Support Worker -Ophthalmology V**

Bournemouth, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£24169.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Healthcare Support Worker -Ophthalmology V job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon - Oculoplastic & General Ophthalmology**

Bury St. Edmunds, IP33 2QZ

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon - Oculoplastic & General Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **Ophthalmology Deputy Directorate/Regional Manager Cataracts**

Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Salary:

£54550.00 to £61412.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Deputy Directorate/Regional Manager Cataracts job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **Clinical Fellow Higher (ST6+) in Ophthalmology (Glaucoma)**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow Higher \(ST6+\) in Ophthalmology \(Glaucoma\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Assistant Patient Pathway Coordinator (CAT 2 Ophthalmology)**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Assistant Patient Pathway Coordinator \(CAT 2 Ophthalmology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Sessional Ophthalmologist**

Worthing, BN11 3BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Sessional Ophthalmologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist**

Warrington, WA51QG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT

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

- **Consultant Glaucoma Ophthalmologist**

Northampton, NN1 5BD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northampton General Hospital

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Glaucoma Ophthalmologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist - Glaucoma**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist - Glaucoma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[37]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist - Medical Retina**

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 - Medical Retina job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[38]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist (Glaucoma)**

Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist \(Glaucoma\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[39]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist - Oculoplastic**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist - Oculoplastic job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **Locum Consultant Glaucoma Ophthalmologist**

Northampton, NN1 5BD

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Northampton General Hospital

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Glaucoma Ophthalmologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[41]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist – Cataract Specialist**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist – Cataract Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist – Corneal Specialist**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist – Corneal Specialist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[43]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist - Paediatric / Strabismus**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist - Paediatric / Strabismus job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[44]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist (Glaucoma and Corneal)**

Scarborough, YO12 6QL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist \(Glaucoma and Corneal\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[45]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[46]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist - cornea & anterior segment surgery**

Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist - cornea & anterior segment surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[47]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist with interests in Strabismus & Neuro**

Liverpool, L7 8YE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist with interests in Strabismus & Neuro job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[48]

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

Bournemouth, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist with Interest in Paediatrics & Strabismus job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[49]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist w/ special interest in Glaucoma**

Boston, PE21 9QS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist (specialist interest in Cataracts (HVLC))**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist \(specialist interest in Cataracts \(HVLC\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[51]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist for Cornea & Ocular Surface**

Carshalton, SM5 1AA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist for Cornea & Ocular Surface job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[52]

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

Scunthorpe, DN15 7BH

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 \(SGH\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[53]

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

Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Salary:

£121264.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist with an interest in Glaucoma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[54]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist with specialist interest in Cornea**

Chelmsford, CM1 7ET

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist with special interest in Glaucoma**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist with special interest in Glaucoma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[56]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Swindon, SN3 3RB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[57]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Wandsworth, SW18 4WW

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[58]

- **ENT Doctor**

Worthing, BN11 3BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[59]

- **Hospice Doctor**

SCARBOROUGH, YO12 5RE

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Saint Catherine's Hospice

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

London, SE14 6BL

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Specialty Doctor**

London, UB1 3EU

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

West London NHS Trust

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

- **ENT Doctor**

Canterbury, CT1 1BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Slough, SL1 2EJ

Salary:

£550.00

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:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Specialty Doctor**

Kewstoke, BS22 9UZ

Salary:

£90000.00 to £90000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnet Health Care

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology 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]
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