

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

Worcester, WR5 1DD

Kidderminster, DY11 6RJ

Bromsgrove, B61 0BB

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor Ophthalmology**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[10]

- **Senior Locally Employed Doctor in Ophthalmology (Medical Education)**

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 Ophthalmology \(Medical Education\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **Registered Nurse Ophthalmology**

Carmarthen, SA31 2AF

Salary:

£30420.00 to £37030.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

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

- **Staff Nurse - Ophthalmology**

Carshalton, SM5 1AA

Salary:

£34521.00 to £41956.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **Ophthalmology Retinal Specialist**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

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

- **Ophthalmology Department Clerk**

Harrogate, HG2 7SX

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Department Clerk job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology**

Barrow in Furness, LA14 4LF

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

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

- **Ophthalmology - Glaucoma Fellow**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£61825.00 to £70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Staff Nurse - Ophthalmology**

Arrowe Park Road, CH49 5PE

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **Ophthalmology Nurse Band 5**

Llwynypia, CF40 2LX

Salary:

£30420.00 to £37030.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Nurse Band 5 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Staff Nurse - Outpatient Ophthalmology**

High Wycombe, HP11 2TT

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Staff Nurse - Outpatient Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Lead Nurse Ophthalmology B8a**

Guildford, GU2 7XX

Salary:

£55877.00 to £62626.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Lead Nurse Ophthalmology B8a job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Highly Specialist Orthoptist-Ophthalmology**

Welwyn Garden City, AL7 4HQ

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East and North Hertfordshire Teaching NHS Trust

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

- **Clinical Support Worker - Ophthalmology**

Barrow in Furness, LA14 4LF

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

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

- **Advanced Clinical Practitioner - Ophthalmology**

Carshalton, SM5 1AA

Salary:

£59490.00 to £66239.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Clinical Practitioner - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Diabetic Failsafe Officer - Ophthalmology**

Colchester, CO4 5JR

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Diabetic Failsafe Officer - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Clinic Coordinator – Ophthalmology (Failsafe)**

York, YO31 8HE

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinic Coordinator – Ophthalmology \(Failsafe\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Receptionist/Appointment Clerk - Ophthalmology Colchester**

Colchester, CO4 5JL

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Receptionist/Appointment Clerk - Ophthalmology Colchester job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **IVT Development Role Ophthalmology (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for IVT Development Role Ophthalmology \(INTERNAL\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **Senior Clinical Fellow in Ophthalmology**

Blackburn, BB23HH

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **International Clinical Fellow in Oculoplastics & Ophthalmology**

Hereford, HR12ER

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for International Clinical Fellow in Oculoplastics & Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Eye Surgery Unit**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Eye Surgery Unit job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

- **Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Eye Surgery Unit**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Eye Surgery Unit job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[37]

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

Abergavenny, NP7 7EG

Salary:

£30420.00 to £37030.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Theatre Day Case - NHH job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[38]

- **Consultant in Ophthalmology (special interest in Paediatrics)**

Barnsley, S75 2EP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Theatres/Day Case Unit**

Newport, NP20 2UB

Salary:

£30420.00 to £37030.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Registered Nurse - Ophthalmology Theatres/Day Case Unit job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[41]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **Locum Consultant in Ophthalmology (Oculoplastics and Acute Eye Care)**

Wakefield, WF1 4DG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Ophthalmology \(Oculoplastics and Acute Eye Care\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[43]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[44]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[45]

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist - Medical Retina**

Basingstoke, RG24 9NA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist - Medical Retina job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[46]

- **Substantive Consultant Ophthalmologist - Interest in Glaucoma**

Bournemouth, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Substantive Consultant Ophthalmologist - Interest in Glaucoma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[47]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist - Paediatric and Strabismus**

Bournemouth, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist - Paediatric and Strabismus job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[48]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[49]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[50]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[51]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[52]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[53]

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist with Special Interest in Cataract**

Sidcup, DA14 6LT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist in Medical Retina & Urgent Care**

London, HA1 3UJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Ophthalmologist in Medical Retina & Urgent Care job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[55]

- **Resident Doctor (Trust Doctor)**

Sunderland, SR4 7TP

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Resident Doctor \(Trust Doctor\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[56]

- **ENT Doctor**

Sheffield, S9 1XH

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Canterbury, CT1 1BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Speciality Doctor**

Maidstone, ME16 9NT

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Speciality Doctor**

London, WC1N 3HR

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

London, SE14 6BL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Wandsworth, SW18 4WW

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Slough, SL1 2EJ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Specialty Doctor**

Lewisham, SE13 6LH

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor**

Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2PW

Salary:

£59727.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

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

o **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]

o **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]
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