

# 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](#) <sup>[1]</sup> after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) <sup>[2]</sup> and consultants on the ['Pay for doctors'](#) <sup>[3]</sup> 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](#)** <sup>[4]</sup>.

# What are my chances of starting a career in ophthalmology?

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

## How to become an ophthalmologist

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

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training <sup>[7]</sup> 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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor - Ophthalmology**

Harlow, CM20 1QX

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor - Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist – Corneal and Emergency Ophthalmology**

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 – Corneal and Emergency Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor (General Ophthalmology)**

Leicester, LE1 5WW

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor \(General Ophthalmology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology**

St Helens, WA9 5GR

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology**

Hazel Grove, SK2 7JE

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Speciality Doctor in Medical Retina Ophthalmology**

Cardiff, CF14 2XW

Salary:

£59727.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Speciality Doctor in Medical Retina Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **Consultant in Ophthalmology**

Wakefield, WF14DG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Ophthalmology Nurse Band 5**

Bridgend, CF31 1RQ

Salary:

£30420.00 to £37030.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Nurse Band 5 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Patient Pathway Tracker, Ophthalmology**

Ashford, TW15 3AA

Salary:

£27857.00 to £30570.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Ashford & St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Patient Pathway Tracker, Ophthalmology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[23]</sup>

- **Team Leader/Administrator (Ophthalmology)**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Leader/Administrator \(Ophthalmology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[24]</sup>

- **Head of School - Ophthalmology (West)**

Birmingham, B2 4BJ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Head of School - Ophthalmology \(West\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **Trust Fellow in Ophthalmology (Corneal)**

Cheltenham, GL53 7AN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Fellow in Ophthalmology \(Corneal\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **Ophthalmology Fellow in Medical Retina**

Leeds, LS9 7TF

Salary:

£73992.00



Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmology Fellow in Medical Retina job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Clinical Nurse Specialist (General Ophthalmology)**

Leicester, LE15WW

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Nurse Specialist \(General Ophthalmology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Senior Sister / Charge Nurse (Ophthalmology)**

Carmarthen, SA31 2AF

Salary:

£46840.00 to £53602.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Sister / Charge Nurse \(Ophthalmology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Senior Staff Nurse (Ophthalmology - 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 Senior Staff Nurse \(Ophthalmology - PCEU Windsor\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Consultant in Ophthalmology Medical Retina and Uveitis**

Cheltenham, GL53 7AN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Ophthalmology Medical Retina and Uveitis job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Training Programme Director of Ophthalmology - South London**

London, E14 4PU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Training Programme Director of Ophthalmology - South London job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

- **Band 2/3 - Healthcare Support Worker, Ophthalmology Outpatients**

Watford/St Albans, WD18 0HB

Salary:

£25427.00 to £26958.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 2/3 - Healthcare Support Worker, Ophthalmology Outpatients job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[35]</sup>

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist**

Kettering, NN16 8UZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist - Corneal**

Huddersfield, HD3 3EA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist - Corneal job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist - Adnexal**

Thornton Heath, CR7 7YE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist - Adnexal job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist - External Disease**

London, EC1V 2PD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist - External Disease job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist specialising in Paediatrics**

Tooting, SW17 0QT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist specialising in Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Consultant Ophthalmologist with Interest in Medical Glaucoma**

Carshalton, SM5 1AA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmologist with Interest in Medical Glaucoma job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[47]</sup>

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[48]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Sheffield, S9 1XH

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Canterbury, CT1 1BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[50]</sup>

- **Speciality Doctor**

Taunton, TA1 5HA

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St Margaret's Somerset Hospice

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Speciality Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

London, SE14 6BL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[52]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Wandsworth, SW18 4WW

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[53]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Slough, SL1 2EJ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[54]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Worthing, BN11 3BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[55]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor**

Bishops Stortford, CM23 5JH

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[56]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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



- **ENT Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[58]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Leeds, LS16 6EB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Macclesfield, SK11 6HB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[60]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Swindon, SN3 3RB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[61]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Swindon, SN3 3RB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Bank Doctor**

Winsford, CW7 1BH

Salary:

£42.27

Type:

Bank

Employer:

St Luke's (Cheshire) Hospice

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[63]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Canterbury, CT1 1BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Sheffield, S9 1XH

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Milton Keynes , MK11 3LW

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[67]</sup>

- **Further information**

The [Royal College of Ophthalmologists](#) <sup>[68]</sup> 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 \(BMJ\)](#) <sup>[69]</sup>

[A consultant in ophthalmology talking about their specialty \(HEWM\)](#) <sup>[70]</sup>

## Other roles that may interest you

- [Medical ophthalmology](#) <sup>[71]</sup>
- [Ophthalmic and vision science](#) <sup>[72]</sup>
- [Neurosurgeon](#) <sup>[73]</sup>
- [Plastic surgery](#) <sup>[74]</sup>

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## Links

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