

Paediatric surgery

Paediatric surgeons work with young patients – from premature and unborn babies to children and young adults up to the age of 19.

You'll have a very varied and sometimes unpredictable workload including surgery, attending outpatient clinics and hospital ward rounds and looking after both your young patients and their families.

Surgeon in operating room

Life as a paediatric surgeon

You'll carry out more general forms of surgery such as abdominal, trauma or transplantation surgery, as well as specialist procedures such as [neonatal](#) ^[1] surgery, often for congenital abnormalities. You might also perform complex surgery on children with disabilities to improve their quality of life.

Just over 10% of operations on children are carried out by paediatric surgeons with the majority being performed by other specialist surgeons in fields such as orthopaedic, plastic and ENT (ear, nose and throat) surgery.

Some consultants have an interest in fields such as paediatric orthopaedics or neurosurgery, but they come from these surgical training routes, rather than paediatric surgery. You'll work in partnership with these colleagues, either in dedicated children's hospitals or in paediatric surgical units within larger hospitals.

You'll also attend outpatient clinics and ward rounds where you'll meet your patients and their parents or carers. An important part of your work will be reassuring and advising concerned parents and carers which can be rewarding as well as emotionally demanding.

Your clinical workload will mainly cover day cases. The amount of emergency surgery and on-call work you'll do is relatively low compared to other specialties.

How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) ^[2] after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) ^[3] and consultants on the '[Pay for doctors](#)' ^[4] 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.

"An early rotation in general surgery provided me with the opportunity to help with operations. I loved the work and also enjoyed working alongside such dedicated and hard-working colleagues and decided to pursue a career in surgery."

[Read Kathryn's story](#) ^[5].

What are my chances of starting a career in paediatric surgery?

In 2021, there were 205 paediatric surgeons working in the NHS in England. In addition, there were 80 applications for 12 specialty training places.

How to become a paediatric surgeon

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 a paediatric surgeon, which will take a minimum of eight 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 as a paediatric surgeon can take you

You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as neonatal ^[1] surgery, paediatric urology, and paediatric oncology ^[8]
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training?
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector

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◦ Locum Consultant in Spinal Surgery (Paediatric)

Oxford, OX3 7LD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Spinal Surgery \(Paediatric\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[9]

- **Consultant in Paediatric and Adult Spinal Surgery**

Sheffield, S10 2TH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric and Adult Spinal Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[10]

- **Consultant in Paediatric General Surgery (Thoracic & Upper GI)**

Leeds, LS13EX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric General Surgery \(Thoracic & Upper GI\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **Senior Paediatric Pharmacy Technician-Paediatric Intensive Care**

London, SE1 7EH

Salary:

£35964.00 to £43780.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Paediatric Pharmacy Technician-Paediatric Intensive Care job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **Paediatric Audiologist**

Preston, PR2 8JB

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Paediatric Audiologist**

Widnes, WA8 3LZ

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Paediatric Consultant**

Eltham, SE9 5AB

Salary:

£105504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

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

- **Paediatric Consultant**

Eltham, SE9 5AB

Salary:

£105504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Demelza Hospice Care for Children

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

- **Paediatric Phlebotomist**

Birmingham, B4 6NH

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust

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

[16]

- **Consultant in General Surgery - Consultant Surgeon**

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in General Surgery - Consultant Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [17]

- **Paediatric Sleep Consultant**

London, SE1 7EU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Sleep Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [18]

- **Paediatric Cardiology Fellow**

Leeds, LS1 3EX

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Cardiology Fellow job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [19]

- **Senior Paediatric Audiologist**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£44806.00 to £53134.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Paediatric Audiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Specialist Paediatric Audiologist**

Crewe, CW1 4QJ

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Paediatric Audiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Consultant ENT Paediatric**

Portsmouth, PO6 3LY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant ENT Paediatric job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Senior Paediatric Audiologist**

Widnes, WA8 3LZ

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Paediatric Audiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist**

Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist job (opens in a new window) ^[24]

- **Lead Pharmacist Paediatrics**

Taunton, TA1 5DA

Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Salary:

£62215.00 to £72293.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Lead Pharmacist Paediatrics job (opens in a new window) ^[25]

- **Community Paediatric Dietician**

Nottingham, NG7 7AD

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nottingham CityCare Partnership CIC

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Paediatric Dietician job (opens in a new window) ^[26]

- **Paediatric Nephrology Consultant**

Liverpool, L12 2AP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Nephrology Consultant job (opens in a new window) ^[27]

- **Advanced Paediatric Audiologist**

Plymouth, PL6 8DH

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Paediatric Audiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Senior Audiologist (Paediatric)**

King's Lynn, PE30 4ET

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Audiologist \(Paediatric\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **Paediatric Rheumatology Consultant**

Leicester, LE1 5WW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Rheumatology Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **Paediatric Junior Sister**

Epsom, KT18 7EG

Salary:

£42939.00 to £50697.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Junior Sister job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[31]

- **Specialist Paediatric Clinical Pharmacist**

Sheffield, S10 2TH

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Paediatric Clinical Pharmacist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [32]

- **Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry**

Birmingham, B5 7EG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [33]

- **Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry**

Birmingham, B5 7EG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [34]

- **Locum Paediatric Rheumatology Consultant**

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Service Administrator (Community Paediatrics)**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Service Administrator \(Community Paediatrics\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **General Practitioner - Paediatric Allergy**

London, N18 1QX

Salary:

£73113.00 to £110330.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for General Practitioner - Paediatric Allergy job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[37]

- **Further information**

These organisations have further information about being a paediatric surgeon, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

[British Association of Paediatric Surgeons](#) ^[38]

[Royal College of Surgeons](#) ^[39]

[Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh](#) ^[40]

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) ^[41]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Paediatrician](#) ^[42]

- [General surgery](#) [43]
- [Dermatology](#) [44]
- [Clinical informatics](#) [45]

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