

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 Paediatric Surgery / Urology

Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Salary:

£121264.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

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

- **Locum Consultant Paediatric Surgeon with Interest in Oncology**

Leeds, LS1 3EX

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Paediatric Surgeon with Interest in Oncology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[10]

- **Consultant in Paediatric ENT surgery**

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 Consultant in Paediatric ENT surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **Consultant in Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery**

London, WC1N 3JH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **Locum Consultant in Paediatric Plastic Surgery**

London, SE1 7EH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant in Paediatric ENT Surgery**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon with specialist interest in Paediatrics**

Watford, WD18 0HB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon with specialist interest in Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Trainee in Paediatric Dental and Maxillofacial Surgery**

Birmingham, B4 6NH

Salary:

£65048.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trainee in Paediatric Dental and Maxillofacial Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Matron-Paediatrics**

Derby, DE22 3NE

Salary:

£55690.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Paediatric Matron**

Aylesbury, HP21 8AL

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

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

- **Paediatric Audiologist**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£46419.00 to £55046.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

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

- **Paediatric Audiologist**

Watford , WD17 3EW

St Albans, AL1 3JE

The Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1LD

Salary:

£22.47

Type:

Bank

Employer:

NHS Professionals Limited

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

- **Locum Urological Surgeon Specialized General & Reconstructive Surgery**

London, E9 6SR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Urological Surgeon Specialized General & Reconstructive Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Consultant Plastic Surgeon (Burns / General Plastic Surgery)**

Wakefield, WF14DG

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Plastic Surgeon \(Burns / General Plastic Surgery\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Consultant Paediatric Intensivist**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

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

- **Paediatric Junior Sister**

Epsom, KT18 7EG

Salary:

£44485.00 to £52521.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Junior Sister job \(opens in a new window\)](#)
[24]

- **Specialist Paediatric SLT**

Kingston upon Thames, KT2 7QB

Salary:

£53751.00 to £60651.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust

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

[25]

- **Consultant in Paediatrics**

Milton Keynes, MK6 5LD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

[26]

- **Consultant Paediatric Haematologist**

Sutton, SM2 5PT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Paediatric Haematologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [27]

- **Community Paediatric Audiologist**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

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

- **Paediatric Specialty Registrar**

Reading, RG15AN

Salary:

£61825.00 to £70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Paediatric Junior Sister**

Carshalton, SM5 1AA

Salary:

£44485.00 to £52521.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

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

^[30]

- **Paediatric Gastroenterology CNS**

Brighton, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Gastroenterology CNS job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **Senior Paediatric Audiologist**

Watford, WD17 3EW

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust

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

- **Clinical Psychologist - Paediatrics**

Wakefield, WF1 4DG

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Psychologist - Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Nursing Associate - Paediatrics**

Scarborough, YO12 6QL

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Nursing Associate - Paediatrics**

Scarborough, YO12 6QL

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Nursing Associate - Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Audiologist Paediatric Lead**

Doncaster, DN2 5LT

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS FT

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

◦ **Paediatric Consultant Radiologist**

Swindon, SN3 6BB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

• **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](#) ^[37]

[Royal College of Surgeons](#) ^[38]

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

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) ^[40]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Paediatrician](#) ^[41]
- [General surgery](#) ^[42]
- [Dermatology](#) ^[43]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) ^[44]

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[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Neonatal> [2]
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