

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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○ Consultant Paediatric Spinal Surgeon

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 Paediatric Spinal Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[9]

- **Fellow in Paediatric Surgery**

Leeds, LS1 3EX

Salary:

£70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

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

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (Hip & Paediatric)**

Swansea, SA6 6NL

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swansea Bay University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon \(Hip & Paediatric\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **Clinical Fellow in Paediatric Surgery**

London, WC1N 3JH

Salary:

£47524.00 to £64288.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Clinical Fellow ST3+ in Paediatric Surgery**

Brighton, BN2 5BE

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow ST3+ in Paediatric Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

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

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 Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Consultant Surgeon in Paediatric Trauma and Orthopaedics**

Manchester, M13 9WL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Anaesthetist with interest in Paediatric Spinal Surgery**

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Anaesthetist with interest in Paediatric Spinal Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

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

- **Paediatric Pharmacist**

Southampton, SO14 2AA

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust

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

- **Paediatric Audiologist**

High Wycombe, HP11 2TT

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

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

- **Paediatric Audiologist**

High Wycombe, HP11 2TT

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

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

- **Consultant - Paediatrics**

Truro, TR1 3LJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

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

[21]

- **Paediatric Audiologist**

London, SE1 7EH

Salary:

£44806.00 to £53134.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Paediatric Audiologist**

London, E8 2FP

Salary:

£44806.00 to £53134.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

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

- **Trust Doctor in General Paediatrics and Paediatric Specialties**

Leeds, LS1 3EX

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor in General Paediatrics and Paediatric Specialties job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [24]

- **Senior Paediatric Radiographer**

Brighton, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Paediatric Radiographer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Service Administrator (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 \(Paediatrics\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Senior Paediatric Audiologist**

Maidstone/ Gravesend/ Sevenoaks, ME17 4AH

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **General Paediatric Consultant**

London, W12 0HS

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

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

- **Community Paediatric Sister**

Milton Keynes, MK6 5LD

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Senior Paediatric Audiologist**

Kettering, NN16 8UZ

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Paediatric Radiologist**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Paediatric Chief Registrar**

Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Taunton, TA1 5DA

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Ward Clerk (Paediatrics)**

Barnstaple, EX314JB

Salary:

£24169.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

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

[33]

- **Community Paediatric Audiologist**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

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

- **Paediatrics Lead Pharmacist**

Camberley, GU16 7UJ

Salary:

£55877.00 to £62626.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Service Administrator (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 \(Paediatrics\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **Clinical Matron - Paediatrics**

Bath, BA1 3NG

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Matron - Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[37]

- **Chief Paediatric Audiologist**

Sevenoaks/Gravesend/Maidstone/Sittingbourne, TN13 3PG

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Chief Paediatric Audiologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[38]

- **Paediatric Audiology Lead**

High Wycombe, HP11 2TT

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Audiology Lead job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[39]

- **Matron General Paediatrics**

London, W2 1NY

Salary:

£61927.00 to £68676.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Matron General Paediatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **Senior Specialist Paediatric Dietitian**

Warwick, CV34 5BW

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Specialist Paediatric Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[41]

- **Paediatric Tracheostomy Specialist Practitioner**

Manchester, M13 9WL

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Tracheostomy Specialist Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **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](#) ^[43]

[Royal College of Surgeons](#) ^[44]

[Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh](#) ^[45]

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) ^[46]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Paediatrician](#) ^[47]

- [General surgery](#) [48]
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