

Entry requirements, skills and interests (ophthalmology)

This page provides useful information about the entry requirements needed for this specialty up to and including [foundation training](#) [1]. It also includes information on the skills and interests you will need.

Entry requirements

Before you train as an ophthalmologist you must complete a degree in medicine and have obtained a MBBS or equivalent qualification. Find out about getting into medical school. [2]

You then need to complete a two-year foundation programme [3]. After successfully completing your first year of [foundation training](#) [1] you become eligible for registration as a doctor with the General Medical Council (GMC). [Foundation training](#) [1] includes undertaking rotations in a range of specialties.

To find information about the Foundation Programme, visit our [applying for foundation training](#) [4] page.

Skills and interests

Ophthalmologists need:

- the ability to communicate effectively and empathically with patients – eye problems can cause a considerable degree of anxiety
- excellent manual dexterity, good hand-eye co-ordination and good vision
- excellent organisational and time management skills
- good problem-solving and decision-making skills
- the ability to work well within multidisciplinary teams
- a willingness to work with constantly changing technologies

If you're applying for a role either directly in the NHS or in an organisation that provides NHS services you'll be asked to show how you think the NHS values apply in your everyday work. The same will be true if you're applying for a university course funded by the NHS.

Find out more about NHS values [5].

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/ophthalmology/entry-requirements-skills-and-interests>

Links

[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/considering-or-university/studying-medicine/applying-medical-school>

[3] <http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/information-doctors/foundation-training-programme/applying-foundation>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/working-health/nhs-constitution>