

# Entry requirements, skills and interests (histopathology)

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 a histopathologist 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) [4]. [Foundation training](#) [1] includes undertaking rotations in a range of specialties.

To find information about the Foundation Programme, visit our [applying for foundation training](#) [5] page.

## Skills and interests

Histopathologists need:

- extensive breadth of knowledge, not just of histopathology, but of clinical and surgical practice
- an interest in the mechanisms of disease at the macroscopic, microscopic and molecular level
- an inquisitive mind and self-motivation
- good visual pattern recognition
- manual dexterity and hand-eye co-ordination
- good diagnostic skills to determine not only the type of disease, but also its severity and extent to ensure the right treatment is given
- excellent organisational and time management skills
- good problem-solving and decision-making skills
- the ability to work well alone and also within multidisciplinary teams
- the ability to communicate effectively with people with a wide range of hospital and medical colleagues

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 <sup>[6]</sup>.

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

#### **Links**

[1] [https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation\\_training](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] <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>

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

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