

Compare roles in health

Not sure where to start with the hundreds of NHS careers? Use our compare roles section to get bite-size information on the entry requirements and training, pay and conditions, prospects and skills needed of up to three roles. If there is something that you think you could do, then get more in-depth information on the role.

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- **Ophthalmology** ^[1]

Ophthalmologists are medically trained doctors who care for patients who have eye conditions. They manage those with acute and long term eye disease and treat patients of all ages.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, MBBS. 2 years foundation doctor training, 7 years specialist training (ST1-7). This period of training will include your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

Expected working hours and salary range

Doctors may work up to 48 hours a week. The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working day to include early mornings, evenings and weekends, on call possible. Pay scales (2017): Consultants earn between £76,761 and £103,490.

Desirable skills and values

For this role you'll need to possess good stereoscopic vision and meet the professional health requirements outlined by the GMC. You will also have excellent fine coordination and manual dexterity skills to perform ophthalmological examinations. You'll have the ability to communicate effectively and empathetically with patients. You'll have excellent problem-solving skills and a high-level decision making capability which supports your ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team. You are also able to work well under pressure which is aided by your good organisational and planning skills.

Prospects

There are 1,192 consultants in ophthalmology in England in 2016. Opportunities exist for

research and teaching.

Related roles

- Medical ophthalmology [2]
- Ophthalmic and vision science [3]
- Neurosurgery [4]
- Plastic surgery [5]

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[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/medical-ophthalmology>

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physiological-sciences/ophthalmic-and-vision-science>

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