

## 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.

Don't forget, you can also save your role comparisons by registering with us.

### • Trauma and orthopaedic surgery <sup>[1]</sup>

Trauma and orthopaedic (T&O) surgeons diagnose and treat conditions of the musculoskeletal system including bones and joints and structures that enable movement such as ligaments, tendons, muscles and nerves.

#### Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine and two years of foundation training. You'll then do two years of core training (CT1–2), followed by five years specialist training (ST3-8). Run-through training is also available. This period of training will include completing your royal college exams. Length of training can vary according to your circumstances.

#### Expected working hours and salary range

Working hours should not exceed 48 hours a week. The working hours may sometimes extend beyond the normal working day including early mornings, evenings and weekends. You will also need to be on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a trauma and orthopaedic surgeon employed by the NHS, you can expect to earn a salary of at least £40,257, which can increase to between £84,559 and £114,003 as a consultant.

#### Desirable skills and values

You'll need excellent communication skills and be emotionally resilient, have a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure. You'll have the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams and have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills. As a trauma and orthopaedic surgeon, you'll have: a high degree of manual dexterity; superb hand-eye co-ordination; excellent vision; visuospatial awareness and the physical stamina to cope with the demands of surgery.

#### Prospects

In 2020 there were 715 applications for 125 specialty training places, (a competition ratio of 5.72). There are currently 2,654 trauma and orthopaedic surgeons working in the NHS in

England. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such a particular part of the body for example shoulders or elbows, joint reconstruction such as hip or knee, paediatric surgery, sports injury or complex trauma surgery. You could teach medical or postgraduate students.

### Related roles

- [Anaesthesia](#) [2]
- [Emergency medicine](#) [3]
- [Rheumatology](#) [4]
- [Sport and exercise medicine](#) [5]

### • [Finance staff](#) [6]

NHS finance staff make sure sure that our budgets are spent wisely and for the benefit of our patients.

#### Training and qualifications required

Finance staff in the NHS will usually work towards a finance qualification. You can either enter as a trainee (you usually need at least 2 GCSEs including English and maths, or equivalent) and study while you work, or take a finance qualification and apply to join the NHS. Employers may also ask for IT skills. They may expect some customer service or office experience. There are apprenticeships in finance departments. If you join the NHS with a finance qualification this could be one from the Association of Accounting Technicians or Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. If you have a degree in a non-finance subject, you can apply for the NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme and work towards professional accountancy qualifications. Finance trainees are encouraged to take further qualifications.

#### Expected working hours and salary range

Most finance staff (except the most senior managers) working in the NHS are paid on the Agenda for Change (AfC) pay system. You will typically start in a post at AfC band 2. With further training and experience, you could apply for more senior positions such as finance officer at band 3 or team leader at band 4. There are managerial roles in finance at more senior levels. Finance staff in the NHS work standard hours of around 37.5 a week. Terms and conditions will usually be different for clinical support staff working outside of the NHS.

#### Desirable skills and values

Finance staff have to be interested in figures and money, accurate and methodical, honest, able to work to deadlines, able to follow instructions and procedures and willing to use IT-based systems. You'll also need excellent numeracy skills, IT skills and organisational skills.

#### Prospects

With experience, finance staff can become team leaders supervising the work of other finance staff. They can progress to become managers responsible for a department or area. Some progress to senior roles such as head of finance or finance director.

### Related roles

- [Administrative management](#) [7]
- [Finance manager](#) [8]

- Human resources (HR) manager [9]
- Strategic management [10]

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