

Compare roles in health

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• Neurosurgeon ^[1]

Neurosurgeons diagnose, assess and perform surgery on disorders affecting the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) and the peripheral nervous system which can involve any area of the body.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine and two years of foundation training. This is followed by eight years of specialist training (ST1-8).

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'll also need to be on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a neurosurgeon 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 neurosurgeon, 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 220 applications for 26 specialty training places. In May 2021 there were 362 consultant neurosurgeons working in the NHS in England. You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as paediatric neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, spinal surgery, and conditions such as epilepsy, movement disorders and cerebral palsy. You could also teach medical or postgraduate students. get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector

Related roles

- Oral and maxillofacial surgery [2]
- Neurologist [3]
- Endocrinology and diabetes [4]
- Otorhinolaryngology (ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery) [5]

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