

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.

• Plastic surgery ^[1]

Plastic surgeons restore form and function following illness or trauma.

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 six years of specialist training (ST3-8). 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 but some doctors work longer. Some on call work may be necessary. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a plastic 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 plastic 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 2021 there were 543 plastic surgeons in England. There were 190 applications for 41 specialty training places (a competition ratio of 4.63). You could specialise or conduct research in areas such as paediatric plastic surgery, hand surgery, or cancer surgery and reconstruction. You could teach medical or postgraduate students.

Related roles

- [General surgery](#) [2]
- [Oral and maxillofacial surgery](#) [3]
- [Otorhinolaryngology \(ear, nose and throat \(ENT\) surgery\)](#) [4]
- [Vascular surgery](#) [5]

Source URL: https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/compare-roles-health?field_field_role=497

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/plastic-surgery> [2]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/general-surgery> [3]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/oral-and-maxillofacial-surgery> [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/otorhinolaryngology-ear-nose-and-throat-surgery-ent> [5]
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/vascular-surgery>