

Compare roles in health

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Forensic psychiatry [1]

Forensic psychiatrists treat people with mental health problems who are in prison, a secure hospital or the wider community.

Training and qualifications required

You'll need to follow a set pattern of training which usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine and two years of foundation training, 3 years core training (CT1-3), followed by 3 years specialists training (ST4-6). 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 week to include early mornings, evenings, weekends and on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a forensic psychiatrist 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 to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families. You'll be emotionally resilient, have excellent problem-solving and diagnostic skills and work well in teams and under pressure. You'll also be very organised for the benefit of patients.

Prospects

There are currently 333 consultant forensic psychiatrists working in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 55 applications for 34 specialty training places. You could specialise in adolescent forensic psychiatry, forensic learning disability psychiatry, forensic psychotherapy, old-age forensic psychiatry and substance misuse. You'll also teach medical or postgraduate students.

Related roles

- General practitioner [2]
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