

Compare roles in health

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• **Infectious diseases** ^[1]

Doctors working in infectious diseases diagnose, investigate and treat infections caused by micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine, MBBS. 2 years foundation doctor training, 2 years core training (CT1-2), 2 years specialists training in combined infection (ST3-4). Followed by 2 years specialist training in Infectious Diseases (ST5-6). 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, weekends and on call. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a doctor in infectious diseases 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 approximately 130 consultants working in infectious diseases in the NHS in England. Infectious diseases is a wide and varied area and you'll have many opportunities to specialise. You can also combine your training with either general internal medicine or with medical microbiology (or virology) and tropical medicine.

Related roles

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- [Emergency medicine](#) [3]
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