

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.

- **Anaesthesia** ^[1]

Anaesthetists, the largest group of hospital-based specialists, give anaesthetics for surgical, medical and psychiatric procedures. They facilitate pain free child-birth, resuscitate acutely unwell patients, run chronic pain services and lead [intensive care](#) ^[2] units.

Training and qualifications required

Training usually starts with a five year first degree in medicine and two years foundation training. Core anaesthetics route: two years core training (CT1-2), followed by five years specialist training (ST3-7). ACCS route: three years core training (CT1-3), followed by five years specialist training (ST4-8). 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 and weekends, on-call highly likely. As a consultant from 1 April 2020, you'll earn a basic salary of £82,096 to £110,683 per year, depending on the length of your service.

Desirable skills and values

For this role you'll have an ability to make quick decisions, to work under pressure with attention to detail. You'll have good communication skills and team working. Being self-motivated, self-reliant and having a commitment to learn are all important. You'll have an interest in physiology, pharmacology and physics. You'll also be keen to learn about all kinds of surgery for all ages and pathologies (diseases) as well as perioperative care.

Prospects

There are 7,544 consultants in anaesthetics (includes intensive care) in England in 2020.

Opportunities exist for research and teaching.

Related roles

- Emergency medicine ^[3]
- Acute internal medicine ^[4]
- General surgery ^[5]
- General practice (GP) ^[6]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/anaesthesia>

[2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Intensive_care

[3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/emergency-medicine>

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/acute-internal-medicine>

[5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/general-surgery>

[6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/general-practitioner-gp/general-practice-gp>