Otorhinolaryngology (ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery)

Ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeons diagnose, evaluate and manage diseases of the head and neck.

Their formal title is otorhinolaryngologist or otolaryngologist.

Life as an ENT surgeon

You’ll treat people of all ages with a wide range of diseases which is what makes being an ENT surgeon so interesting and rewarding. You’ll see more children than most other surgeons apart from those in paediatrics.

You’ll treat conditions that affect the senses such as hearing and balance disorders or smell and taste problems. You’ll also treat patients with conditions that affect their voice, breathing and swallowing as well as those with head and neck tumours.
ENT has possibly the widest range of operations of any speciality. You could treat ear conditions such as hearing loss, childhood ‘glue ear’ (where the middle ear is blocked with fluid), dizziness, ear infections and perforated ear drums.

You’ll treat nose conditions such as sinus infections, nasal injuries, tumours and disorders of the sense of smell and throat conditions ranging from tonsillitis through breathing problems to cancers of the mouth or throat.

You’ll also be involved in facial cosmetic surgery, for example on ears and noses and facial reconstruction following trauma or cancer. You will work closely with a range of other specialists including plastic surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons and ophthalmologists.

You will spend a higher proportion of your time in outpatient clinics seeing day cases and less time in surgery than other surgeons. You will not be on-call as much as in other surgical specialities, making it easier to achieve a work-life balance.

You will make use of the latest technology including robots and lasers to treat patients which often means minimally invasive surgery and faster recovery times. Advances in care mean that you can often deliver life-changing treatment, for example helping a profoundly deaf person gain a sense of hearing and sound for the first time after cochlear implant surgery.

How much can I earn?

You’ll first earn a salary when you start your foundation training [1] after medical school. The basic salary ranges from £32,398 to £37,303. Once you start your specialty training in the NHS, you can expect to earn a salary of at least £43,923, which can increase to between £93,666 and £126,281 as a consultant.

How about the benefits?

- make a difference
- flexible and part-time working
- high income early in your career
- work anywhere in the world
- excellent pension scheme
- good holiday entitlement
- NHS discounts in shops and restaurants

Must-have skills

- excellent communication skills to manage a wide range of relationships with colleagues, and patients and their families
- emotional resilience, a calm temperament and the ability to work well under pressure
- teamwork and the capacity to lead multidisciplinary teams
- problem-solving and diagnostic skills
- outstanding organisational ability and effective decision-making skills
- first-class time and resource management for the benefit of patients
- a high degree of manual dexterity
superb hand-eye co-ordination, excellent vision, and visuospatial awareness
physical stamina to cope with the demands of surgery

Entry requirements

Your first step is medical school. Typically, you’ll need excellent GCSEs and three A or A* passes at A level including chemistry for a five-year undergraduate degree in medicine. Many medical schools also ask for biology and others may require maths or physics.

If you already have a degree, you could study for a four-year postgraduate degree in medicine.

You'll need to pass an interview and admissions test. You’ll be asked to show how you demonstrate the NHS values such as compassion and respect.

Some medical schools look to recruit a mix of students from different backgrounds and geographical areas, so your educational and economic background and family circumstances could be considered as part of your application.

"The crossover and interaction with other specialties is vast in ENT, including neurosurgery, plastics [plastic surgery], oral and maxillofacial surgery. We work in multidisciplinary teams with physician colleagues and other specialists including speech and language therapists and physiotherapists, which is hugely enjoyable."

Read Charles' story [2].

What are my chances of starting a career in ENT?

In 2020 there were 131 applications for 23 specialty training places (a competition ratio [3] of 5.70).

How to become an ENT surgeon

After medical school, you’ll join the paid two-year foundation programme [4] where you’ll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training [5] to become an ENT surgeon, which will take a minimum of seven years.

You may be able to train part time, for example for health reasons or if you have family or caring responsibilities.

Where a career as an ENT surgeon can take you
You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as conditions of just the ear, nose or throat, paediatric ENT, skull base surgery or facial plastics
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector

### Live vacancies

**Find a vacancy**

**Consultant ENT Surgeon**

Warrington, WA5 1QG
Runcorn, WA7 2DA

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant ENT Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [6]

**Locum Specialty Doctor in Otolaryngology/ENT**

Newport, NP20 2UB

Salary: £52542.00 to £82418.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Specialty Doctor in Otolaryngology/ENT job (opens in a new window) [7]
**ENT Specialist**

Southend University Hospital, SS0 0RY

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Locum
Employer: Omnes Healthcare Limited

Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Specialist job (opens in a new window) [8]

**ENT Specialist**

Southend University Hospital, SS0 0RY

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Locum
Employer: Omnes Healthcare Limited

Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Specialist job (opens in a new window) [9]

**ENT Specialist**

West Hampshire, SO22 6EL

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: Omnes Healthcare Limited

Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Specialist job (opens in a new window) [10]

**ENT Consultant**

Southampton, SO14 0YG

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: Practice Plus Group

Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant job (opens in a new window) [11]
Pathway Coordinator, ENT

Leicester, LE1 5WW

Salary: £22816.00 to £24336.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Pathway Coordinator, ENT job (opens in a new window) [12]

Medical Secretary - ENT

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary: £22816.00 to £24336.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Secretary - ENT job (opens in a new window) [13]

ENT Medical Secretary

Orpington, BR6 8ND

Salary: £29460.00 to £31909.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Medical Secretary job (opens in a new window) [14]

ENT Rhinology Consultant

Kettering, NN16 8UZ

Salary: £88364.00 to £119133.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Rhinology Consultant job (opens in a new window) [15]

ENT Support Secretary
Telford, TF1 6TF

Salary: £22816.00 to £24336.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Support Secretary job (opens in a new window) [16]

Clinical Secretary ENT
Eastbourne, BN21 2UD

Salary: £22816.00 to £24336.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Secretary ENT job (opens in a new window) [17]

Support Secretary - ENT
Plymouth, PL6 8DH

Salary: £22383.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Support Secretary - ENT job (opens in a new window) [18]

ENT Consultant - North & Midlands
London, EC3M 1DT

Salary: £1750.00
Type:
Locum
Employer:
18 Week Support Limited
Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant - North & Midlands job (opens in a new window) [19]

Secretarial Assistant for ENT

London, SW17 0QT

Salary: £27948.00 to £29468.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: St George's Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Secretarial Assistant for ENT job (opens in a new window) [20]

Senior HCA - ENT/Eye OPD

BRADFORD, BD9 6RJ

Salary: £22816.00 to £24336.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior HCA - ENT/Eye OPD job (opens in a new window) [21]

Senior Clinical Fellow – ENT – Fixed Term

Romford, RM7 0AG

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical Fellow – ENT – Fixed Term job (opens in a new window) [22]

ENT Speciality Registrar - Remote Virtual Hospital
London, N4 3JH

Salary: £90.00 to £120.00
Type: Locum
Employer: Medefer Ltd
Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Speciality Registrar - Remote Virtual Hospital job (opens in a new window) [23]

Healthcare Assistant, Audiology and ENT Services

West Hampshire, SO22 6EL

Salary: £15.00
Type: Bank
Employer: Omnes Healthcare Limited
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Healthcare Assistant, Audiology and ENT Services job (opens in a new window) [24]

ENT Theatre Scrub/Operating Department Practitioner

Cwmbran, NP44 8YN

Salary: £28834.00 to £35099.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Theatre Scrub/Operating Department Practitioner job (opens in a new window) [25]

GP with special interest in ENT

Bramhope, LS16 9BR

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: Chevin Medical Practice
Apply now on NHS Jobs for GP with special interest in ENT job (opens in a new window)
Theatre Team Leader - ENT/MAX FAX

Dudley, DY1 2HQ

Salary: £35392.00 to £42618.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Theatre Team Leader - ENT/MAX FAX job (opens in a new window)

Band 4 PIFU Navigator - ENT/Audiology

London, NW3 2QG

Salary: £30279.00 to £33116.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 4 PIFU Navigator - ENT/Audiology job (opens in a new window)

ENT Speciality Consultant - Remote Referral Work

London, N4 3JH
London, N4 3JH

Salary: £24000.00 to £120000.00
Type: Locum
Employer: Medefer Ltd
Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Speciality Consultant - Remote Referral Work job (opens in a new window)

Theatre Team Leader - Ophthalmology, ENT and Max Fax

Cardiff, CF23 8XL

Salary: Negotiable
Type:
Permanent
Employer: Spire Healthcare Ltd
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Theatre Team Leader - Ophthalmology, ENT and Max
Fax job (opens in a new window) [30]

- **Scrub Deputy Team Leader, West Wing Theatres (ENT & Ophthalmology)**

  Oxford, OX3 9DU

  Salary: £35392.00 to £42618.00

  Type: Permanent

  Employer: Oxford University NHS Foundation Trust

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Scrub Deputy Team Leader, West Wing Theatres (ENT & Ophthalmology) job (opens in a new window) [31]

- **Advanced Practitioner Speech and Language Therapist - Head and Neck/ENT**

  Liverpool, L9 7AL

  Salary: £50952.00 to £57349.00

  Type: Permanent

  Employer: Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Practitioner Speech and Language Therapist - Head and Neck/ENT job (opens in a new window) [32]

- **Vasectomy Surgeon**

  Kingskerswell, TQ12 5DJ

  Salary: £90.00

  Type: Permanent

  Employer: Independent Health Group

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vasectomy Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [33]

- **Oral Surgeon**
Widnes, WA8 7GD

Salary: £44955.00 to £67433.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Oral Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [34]

Plastic Surgeon

Enfield, London, EN3 4GS

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: Omnes Healthcare Limited
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Plastic Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [35]

Plastic Surgeon

Enfield, London, EN3 4GS

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: Omnes Healthcare Limited
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Plastic Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [36]

Vasectomy Surgeon

United Kingdom - North region (UK centres), M14 6XG

Salary: £800.00
Type: Bank
Employer: MSI Reproductive Choices
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vasectomy Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [37]

Oral Surgeon
Southampton, SO14 0YG

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: Practice Plus Group
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Oral Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [38]

General Surgeon

Ilford, IG3 8YY

Salary: £120000.00 to £120000.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Practice Plus Group
Apply now on NHS Jobs for General Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [39]

Consultant General Surgeon

Harrow, HA1 3UJ

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant General Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [40]

Consultant Cardiac Surgeon

Cambridge Bio Medical Campus, CB2 0AY

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cardiac Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [41]
Consultant - Vascular Surgeon

Southampton, SO16 6YD

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Vascular Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [42]

Hand Surgeon Clinician

Lincolnshire, LN2 5QY

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Bank
Employer: CHEC
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Hand Surgeon Clinician job (opens in a new window) [43]

Consultant Vascular Surgeon

Bradford, BD9 6RJ

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Vascular Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [44]

Consultant Trauma Surgeon

Buckinghamshire, HP21 8AL

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
Consultant Plastic Surgeon

Peterborough, PE3 9GZ

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust

Consultant Colorectal Surgeon

Oldham, OL1 2JH

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

Consultant Breast Surgeon

Camberwell, SE5 9RS

Salary: £90526.00 to £121295.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Locum Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon

Middlesbrough, TS4 3BW

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [49]

**Consultant Breast Surgeon (PT)**

Swansea, SA2 8QA

Salary: £91722.00 to £119079.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Swansea Bay University Health Board
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Breast Surgeon (PT) job (opens in a new window) [50]

**Locum Consultant Cardiac Surgeon**

Coventry, CV2 2DX

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Cardiac Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [51]

**Consultant Breast Surgeon (FT)**

Swansea, SA2 8QA

Salary: £91722.00 to £119079.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Swansea Bay University Health Board
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Breast Surgeon (FT) job (opens in a new window) [52]

**Consultant Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon**
Middlesbrough, TS4 3BW

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [53]

Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon

Northampton, NN1 5DB

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Northampton General Hospital
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [54]

Fellowship-trained Spinal Surgeon

Sheffield, S11 8UX

Salary: £85000.00 to £100000.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: One Health Group
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Fellowship-trained Spinal Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [55]

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon - Arthroplasty

Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LP

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: Practice Plus Group
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon - Arthroplasty job (opens in a new window) [56]
● **Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon**

Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4LP

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00

Type: Fixed-Term

Employer: The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [57]

● **Consultant Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon**

Swansea, SA6 6NL

Salary: £91722.00 to £119079.00

Type: Permanent

Employer: Swansea Bay University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [58]

● **Consultant General & Benign Colorectal Surgeon**

St Martins, GY1 3EX
Guernsey, GY4 6UU

Salary: £140126.31

Type: Permanent

Employer: States of Guernsey

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant General & Benign Colorectal Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [59]

● **Consultant Surgeon in Gynaecological Oncology**

Manchester, M20 4BX

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00

Type: Permanent
**General Ophthalmologist and Cataract Surgeon**

Coventry, CV3 2TQ

Salary: Negotiable

Type: Bank

Employer: CHEC

Apply now on NHS Jobs for General Ophthalmologist and Cataract Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [61]

**Locum Oesophago Gastric & General Surgeon**

Manchester, M6 8HD

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00

Type: Fixed-Term

Employer: Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Oesophago Gastric & General Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [62]

**Consultant General and Transplant Surgeon**

Nottingham, NG5 1PB

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00

Type: Permanent

Employer: Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant General and Transplant Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [63]

**Cardiothoracic Transplant and Retrieval Surgeon**

Cambridge Bio Medical Campus, CB2 0AY

Salary:
£93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Cardiothoracic Transplant and Retrieval Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [64]

**Locum Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon**

Nottingham, NG5 1PB

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trusts
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [65]

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### Further information

These organisations have further information about being an ENT surgeon, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

- British Association of Head and Neck Oncologists [66]
- British Association of Paediatric Otolaryngology [67]
- British Association of Otorhinolaryngologists (ENT UK) [68]
- British Rhinological Society [69]
- British Society of Otology [70]
- Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations [71]
- Royal College of Surgeons [72]
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh [73]
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow [74]

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### Other roles that may interest you
- Audiovestibular medicine [75]
- Endocrinology and diabetes [76]
- Ophthalmology [77]
- Respiratory medicine [78]


Links
[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training
[3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Competition_ratio
[8] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A1797-SCSSSXNT091023
[22] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9162-23-0859
[26] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A0779-23-0002
[27] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9253-23-0505
[29] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0020-23-0002
[31] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9321-23-2502
[33] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/U0043-045
[34] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9835-DEN22-488c
[35] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A1797-23-0008
[36] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/A1797-SCHHPS180923
[37] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B0539-23-0257
[38] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0314-23-0910
[40] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9337-23-1223
[41] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9175-23-0172
[48] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9213-23-1203