Vascular surgery

Vascular surgeons diagnose and manage conditions affecting the circulation, including disease of the arteries and veins.

They treat all parts of the vascular system apart from the heart and the brain.

Life as a vascular surgeon

Many of your patients with arterial disease will be elderly and have other medical conditions such as diabetes. You’ll also treat people of all ages such as young patients with arterial disease due to congenital causes or trauma.

Around half of your surgery will be planned and you’ll often use minimally invasive techniques, for example to widen narrowed or obstructed arteries, insert stents (tiny metal cylinders) to ensure blood vessels remain open, or assess varicose veins using ultrasound [1]. Your work helps your patients avoid bigger, more serious surgery and gives them less pain and shorter recovery times.
The rest of your surgery will be emergencies, as around 40% of vascular patients present to hospitals as emergency cases. You’ll do urgent work for conditions such as ruptures to major blood vessels and trauma following road accidents and assaults. You can expect to be on-call sometimes. Many vascular services are now centralised, so you’ll probably work in a team of several consultants and alongside other specialist medical colleagues, for example in the control of vascular bleeding.

Your work outside surgery will include a mixture of ward rounds and outpatient clinics. You’ll minimise future risk of heart attack or stroke by treating some of your patients without surgery. You’ll prescribe medication and have a preventative role, advising on healthy lifestyles including diet and exercise.

How much can I earn?

You’ll first earn a salary when you start your foundation training after medical school. The basic salary ranges from £29,384 to £34,012. Once you start your specialty training as a vascular 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.

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.

"I love the practical hands-on aspect of operating. I also enjoy the camaraderie of the surgical team and working with such great people."

Read Natasha’s story [4].

What are my chances of starting a career in vascular surgery?

General surgical and vascular specialty training is recruited to jointly. In 2020 there were 574 applications for 123 specialty training posts (a competition ratio [5] of 4.67).

How to become a vascular surgeon

After medical school, you’ll join the paid two-year foundation programme [6] where you’ll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training [7] to become a vascular surgeon, which will take a minimum of eight 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 a vascular surgeon can take you

You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as paediatric vascular conditions or vascular input into trauma centres
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector
Live vacancies

Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

- **Vascular Consultant Surgeon**
  
  Bristol, BS10 5NB

  Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00

  Type: Permanent

  Employer: North Bristol NHS Trust

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vascular Consultant Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [8]

- **Consultant Vascular Surgeon (Endo Lead)**

  London, W2 1NY

  Salary: Negotiable

  Type: Permanent

  Employer: Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Vascular Surgeon (Endo Lead) job (opens in a new window) [9]

- **Specialty Doctor in Vascular Surgery**

  Preston, PR29HT

  Salary: £52530.00 to £82400.00

  Type: Permanent
Employer:
  Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Vascular Surgery job (opens in a new window) [10]

- **Specialty Doctor in Vascular Surgery**

  Derby, DE22 3NE

  Salary: £52530.00 to £82400.00
  Type: Fixed-Term
  Employer:
    University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

- **Advanced Clinical Pharmacist - Vascular Surgery**

  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 Clinical Pharmacist - Vascular Surgery job (opens in a new window) [12]

- **Trust Registrar in Vascular Surgery.**

  Gloucester, GL1 3NN

  Salary: £55329.00
  Type: Fixed-Term
  Employer:
    Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Registrar in Vascular Surgery job (opens in a new window) [13]

- **Consultant Vascular and Endovascular Surgery**

  Carlisle, CA2 7HY

  Salary:
£93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Vascular and Endovascular Surgery job (opens in a new window) [14]

Consultant in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Gloucester, GL1 3NN

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery job (opens in a new window) [15]

Locum Consultant Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Locum
Employer: North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Vascular and Endovascular Surgery job (opens in a new window) [16]

Locum Vascular Consultant

Leicester, LE3 9QP

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Vascular Consultant job (opens in a new window) [17]

Clinical Vascular Scientist
Camberwell, SE5 9RS

Salary: £51488.00 to £57802.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Vascular Scientist job (opens in a new window) [18]

Vascular Trust Registrar

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vascular Trust Registrar job (opens in a new window) [19]

Casual Vascular Scientist

Bristol, BS32 4TU

Salary: £32.00
Type: Bank
Employer: GP Care UK Limited
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Casual Vascular Scientist job (opens in a new window) [20]

Clinical Vascular Scientist

London, W2 1NY

Salary: £51488.00 to £57802.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Vascular Scientist job (opens in a new window) [21]
Senior Clinical Fellow ST3/4, General Surgery and Vascular

Watford, WD18 0HB

Salary: £44171.00 to £57570.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical Fellow ST3/4, General Surgery and Vascular job (opens in a new window) [22]

Clinical Fellow in Transplantation and Vascular Access Surgery (LAS)

London, W12 0HS

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow in Transplantation and Vascular Access Surgery (LAS) job (opens in a new window) [23]

VASCULAR SONOGRAPHER-WEEKEND WORK

Harlow, CM19 5EQ

Salary: £70.00
Type: Locum
Employer: Medicare Insourcing Services Limited
Apply now on NHS Jobs for VASCULAR SONOGRAPHER-WEEKEND WORK job (opens in a new window) [24]

Senior Clinical Vascular Scientist

Camberwell, SE5 9RS

Salary: £58698.00 to £65095.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical Vascular Scientist job (opens in a new window) [25]

- **Vascular Network Programme Coordinator**
  Cardiff, CF14 4XW
  Salary:
  £28834.00 to £35099.00
  Type:
  Permanent
  Employer:
  Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vascular Network Programme Coordinator job (opens in a new window) [28]

- **VASCULAR SONOGRAPHER-FLEXIBLE SHIFTS**
  Swansea, SA1 1NU
  Salary:
  £70.00
  Type:
  Locum
  Employer:
  Medicare Insourcing Services Limited
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for VASCULAR SONOGRAPHER-FLEXIBLE SHIFTS job (opens in a new window) [27]

- **Senior Clinical Vascular Scientist**
  London, W6 8RF
  Salary:
  £58698.00 to £65095.00
  Type:
  Fixed-Term
  Employer:
  Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
  Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical Vascular Scientist job (opens in a new window) [28]

- **Trainee Clinical Scientists - Vascular Science**
  Various Sites across Wales, CF14 4XW
  Salary:
£35922.00 to £43257.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer:
Health Education and Improvement Wales
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trainee Clinical Scientists - Vascular Science job (opens in a new window) [29]

**Vascular MDT & Pathway Co-Ordinator**

Liverpool, L9 7AL

Salary: £25147.00 to £27596.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vascular MDT & Pathway Co-Ordinator job (opens in a new window) [30]

**Therapy Assistant - Vascular and Amputees**

Doncaster, DN2 5LT

Salary: £22816.00 to £24336.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS FT
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Therapy Assistant - Vascular and Amputees job (opens in a new window) [31]

**B7 Podiatry Vascular Team Lead**

Dudley, DY5 1RU

Salary: £43742.00 to £50056.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for B7 Podiatry Vascular Team Lead job (opens in a new window) [32]

**Theatre Practitioner Emergency and Vascular Theatre**
Bournemouth, BH7 7DW

Salary: £28407.00 to £34581.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Theatre Practitioner Emergency and Vascular Theatre job (opens in a new window) [33]

Healthcare Assistant, Band 2- Vascular Laboratory

Gloucestershire, GL1 3NN

Salary: £22383.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Healthcare Assistant, Band 2- Vascular Laboratory job (opens in a new window) [34]

Lead Sonographer for General and Vascular Ultrasound

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary: £50952.00 to £57349.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Lead Sonographer for General and Vascular Ultrasound job (opens in a new window) [35]

Lead Sonographer for General and Vascular Ultrasound

Reading, RG1 5AN

Salary: £50952.00 to £57349.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Lead Sonographer for General and Vascular Ultrasound job (opens in a new window) [36]
Consultant Anaesthetist special interest in Vascular & Pre-assessment

Newcastle Road, ST4 6QG

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Anaesthetist special interest in Vascular & Pre-assessment job (opens in a new window)

Consultant General Surgeon WSI in Colorectal Surgery

Warwick, CV34 5BW

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer: South Warwickshire University NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant General Surgeon WSI in Colorectal Surgery job (opens in a new window)

Consultant Plastic Surgeon-Breast Reconstruction & Gen Plastic Surgery

London, E1 1FR

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Barts Health NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Plastic Surgeon-Breast Reconstruction & Gen Plastic Surgery job (opens in a new window)

Consultant in Burns & Plastic Surgery- Consultant Hand Surgeon

Manchester, M23 9LT

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Burns & Plastic Surgery- Consultant Hand Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [40]

**Consultant ENT Surgeon Specialising in Head and Neck Surgery**

Peterborough, PE3 9GZ

Salary: Negotiable
Type: Permanent
Employer:
North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant ENT Surgeon Specialising in Head and Neck Surgery job (opens in a new window) [41]

**Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon Skin Cancer Surgery & Burns Interest**

Prescot, L35 5DR

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer:
Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon Skin Cancer Surgery & Burns Interest job (opens in a new window) [42]

**Consultant Cardiac Surgeon with special interest in Mitral Surgery**

Bristol, BS2 8ED

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer:
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cardiac Surgeon with special interest in Mitral Surgery job (opens in a new window) [43]
Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon-Skin Cancer & Laser Surgery Interest

Prescot, L35 5DR

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Fixed-Term
Employer: Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon-Skin Cancer & Laser Surgery Interest job (opens in a new window)

Breast Surgeon

East Sussex, BN21 3QJ
London, SE1 8SW
West Midlands, TF3 4LZ
Worthing, BN11 1UR

Salary: £1750.00
Type: Locum
Employer: 18 Week Support Limited

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Breast Surgeon job (opens in a new window)

Plastic Surgeon

Hillingdon and Hounslow, TW3 3EL

Salary: £100000.00 to £110000.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Omnes Healthcare Limited

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Plastic Surgeon job (opens in a new window)

Consultant ENT Surgeon

Wirral, CH49 5PE

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type:
Consultant Colorectal Surgeon

Manchester, M20 4BX

Salary:
£93666.00 to £126281.00

Type:
Permanent

Employer:
The Christie NHS FT

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [48]

Consultant Breast Surgeon

Crewe, CW1 4QJ

Salary:
£93666.00 to £126281.00

Type:
Permanent

Employer:
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Breast Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [49]

Consultant Cardiac Surgeon

Liverpool, L14 3PE

Salary:
£93666.00 to £126281.00

Type:
Permanent

Employer:
Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Cardiac Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [50]

Consultant Oral Surgeon

Hereford, HR1 2ER
Consultant Oral Surgeon

Plymouth, PL6 5XP

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Wye Valley NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oral Surgeon job (opens in a new window)

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

Plymouth, PL6 5XP

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

Consultant Thoracic Surgeon

Basildon, SS16 5NL

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Thoracic Surgeon job (opens in a new window)

Consultant Urological Surgeon

Slough, SL2 4HL

Salary: £93666.00 to £126281.00
Type: Permanent
Employer: Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Urological Surgeon job (opens in a new window)
**Consultant Breast Surgeon**

London, SE1 9RT

Salary:
- £93666.00 to £126281.00

Type:
- Permanent

Employer:
- Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Breast Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [55]

**Upper GI Consultant Surgeon**

Gateshead, NE9 6SX

Salary:
- £93666.00 to £126281.00

Type:
- Permanent

Employer:
- Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Upper GI Consultant Surgeon job (opens in a new window) [56]

**Locum Orthopaedic Oncology Surgeon**

Birmingham, B31 2AP

Salary:
- £93666.00 to £126281.00

Type:
- Locum

Employer:
- The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

**Plastic Surgeon- Skin Cancer**

Bromsgrove, B61 0AZ

Salary:
- Negotiable

Type:
- Permanent

Employer:
HealthHarmonie
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Plastic Surgeon- Skin Cancer job (opens in a new window) [58]

Further information

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

Royal College of Surgeons [59]
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh [60]
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow [61]
Vascular Society [62]

Other roles that may interest you

- Cardiologist [63]
- Emergency medicine [64]
- General surgery [65]
- Cardiothoracic surgeon [66]

Source URL: https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/surgery/vascular-surgery

Links
[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Ultrasound
[3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training
[5] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Competition_ratio
[18] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9213-24-0040
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