

# 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.

picture of theatre for surgery

## 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](#) [2] 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](#) [3] after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) [4] and consultants on the '[Pay for doctors](#)' [5] page.

## 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](#)** <sup>[6]</sup>.

# 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 <sup>[7]</sup> of 4.67).

## How to become a vascular surgeon

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year foundation programme <sup>[8]</sup> where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training <sup>[9]</sup> 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

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### ○ Consultant Vascular Surgeon

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Vascular Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

- **Consultant Vascular Surgeon**

Sheffield, S5 7AU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Vascular Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

- **Consultant in Vascular Surgery**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Vascular Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

- **Consultant in Vascular Surgery**

Norwich, NR4 7UY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Vascular Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **Training Programme Director - Vascular Surgery**

Southampton, SO16 0AS

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Training Programme Director - Vascular Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **Ward Based Clinical Educator - Vascular Surgery**

Manchester, M13 9WL

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ward Based Clinical Educator - Vascular Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Consultant in Vascular Surgery (Diabetic Limb Salvage)**

Leeds, LS1 3EX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds Teaching Hospitals

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Vascular Surgery \(Diabetic Limb Salvage\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

- **Consultant in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery**

Preston, PR2 9HT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

- **Consultant in Transplantation and Vascular Access Surgery**

Coventry, CV2 2DX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Transplantation and Vascular Access Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

- **Vascular Sonographer**

Kettering, NN16 8UZ

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vascular Sonographer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

- **Vascular Sonographer**

Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 1AA

Salary:

£59490.00 to £66239.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vascular Sonographer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[20]</sup>

- **Consultant & Clinical Director in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant & Clinical Director in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Clinical Vascular Scientist**

Watford, WD18 0HB

Salary:

£31.78

Type:

Bank

Employer:

NHS Professionals Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Vascular Scientist job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[22]

- **Medical Secretary (Vascular)**

Warrington, WA5 1QG

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Secretary \(Vascular\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [23]

- **Vascular Clinical Practitioner**

Exeter, EX2 5DW

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Vascular Clinical Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [24]

- **Medical Secretary (Vascular)**

Birkenhead, CH49 5PE

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Secretary \(Vascular\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **Bank - Vascular Scientist - Band 7**

Essex, SS16 5NL

Salary:

£26.83

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank - Vascular Scientist - Band 7 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **Senior Clinical Fellow in Vascular**

Harrow, HA3 0JH

Salary:

£41750.00 to £64288.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical Fellow in Vascular job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Clinical Vascular Scientist, Band 7**

Gloucester, GL1 3NN

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Vascular Scientist, Band 7 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor- Vascular (ST1/ ST2)**

Sunderland, SR47TP

Salary:

£49909.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor- Vascular \(ST1/ ST2\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor - Vascular (ST3/ST4/ST5)**

Sunderland, SR4 7TP

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor - Vascular \(ST3/ST4/ST5\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Specialist Physiotherapist Trauma and Orthopaedics and Vascular**

London, W2 1NY

Salary:

£44806.00 to £53134.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Physiotherapist Trauma and Orthopaedics and Vascular job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Consultant In Anaesthesia With An Interest In Vascular And POA**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant In Anaesthesia With An Interest In Vascular And POA job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon with special interest in Knee Surgery**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon with special interest in Knee Surgery job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (Hip/Knee surgeon)**

Torquay, TQ2 7SS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon \(Hip/Knee surgeon\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **Consultant Colorectal Surgeon**

Bournemouth & Poole, BH7 7DW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[35]</sup>

- **Consultant Urological Surgeon**

Oxford, OX3 7LE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Urological Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **Consultant Breast Surgeon**

Swansea, SA2 8QA

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swansea Bay University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

- **Consultant Urological Surgeon**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Urological Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Cramlington, NE23 6NZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Consultant - Urological Surgeon**

Slough, SL2 4HL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Urological Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **Consultant Oculoplastic Surgeon**

Maidstone, ME16 9QQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oculoplastic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Consultant Dermatology Surgeon**

Canterbury, CT1 3NG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Dermatology Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **Consultant Hand Surgeon**

Bristol, BS7 8SA

Bristol, BS11 0QE

Bristol, BS9 3AA

Bristol, BS10 6AF

Bristol, BS34 6BQ

Bristol, BS15 4EJ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

HealthHarmonie

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Hand Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **Consultant Breast Surgeon**

Ilford, IG3 8YB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Breast Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon**

Northampton, NN1 5DB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northampton General Hospital

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Colorectal Surgeon – General Colorectal**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Colorectal Surgeon – General Colorectal job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Thoracic Surgeon**

Cambridge Bio Medical Campus, CB2 0AY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Thoracic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[47]</sup>

- **Consultant Colorectal/Peritoneal Surgeon**

Manchester, M20 4BX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Christie NHS FT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal/Peritoneal Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[48]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon**

Sheffield, S10 2TH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Plastic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **ENT Consultant Surgeon (General)**

Middlesbrough, TS4 3BW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Consultant Surgeon \(General\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[50]</sup>

- **Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon**

London, E1 1FR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **Orthopaedic Surgeon Hip & Knee**

Sutton Coldfield, B75 5BL

Salary:

£7200.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

Medinet Clinical Services Limited

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Orthopaedic Surgeon Hip & Knee job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[52]</sup>

- **Consultant Colorectal/General Surgeon**

Sunderland, SR4 7TP

South Shields, NE34 0PL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Colorectal/General Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[53]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Dermatology Surgeon**

Canterbury, CT1 3NG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Dermatology Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[54]</sup>

- **Fixed Term Consultant Spinal Surgeon**

Brighton and Hove, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Fixed Term Consultant Spinal Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[55]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Colorectal & General Surgeon**

Blackpool, FY3 8NR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Colorectal & General Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[56]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (Hip & Paediatric)**

Swansea, SA6 6NL

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swansea Bay University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon \(Hip & Paediatric\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[57]</sup>

- **NHS Locum Consultant General Surgeon**

King's Lynn, PE30 4ET

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for NHS Locum Consultant General Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[58]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (Foot & ankle)**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon \(Foot & ankle\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[59]</sup>

- **Locum General Surgeon - Upper GI**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum General Surgeon - Upper GI job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[60]</sup>

- **Consultant General Surgeon ( Lower GI )**

Sheffield, S11 8UX

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

One Health Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant General Surgeon \( Lower GI \) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[61]</sup>

- **Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon**

London, SW3 6JJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Head and Neck Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[62]</sup>

- **Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon - Foot and Ankle**

Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LP

Salary:

Negotiable  
Type:  
Permanent  
Employer:  
Practice Plus Group  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon - Foot and Ankle job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[63]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Burns and Plastics Surgeon**

Birmingham, B46NH

Salary:  
£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:  
Locum

Employer:  
Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Burns and Plastics Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon**

East Grinstead, RH19 3DZ

Salary:  
£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:  
Fixed-Term

Employer:  
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[65]</sup>

- **Further information**

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

[Royal College of Surgeons](#) <sup>[66]</sup>

[Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh](#) <sup>[67]</sup>

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) <sup>[68]</sup>

[Vascular Society](#) <sup>[69]</sup>

## Other roles that may interest you

- [Cardiologist](#) <sup>[70]</sup>
- [Emergency medicine](#) <sup>[71]</sup>
- [General surgery](#) <sup>[72]</sup>
- [Cardiothoracic surgeon](#) <sup>[73]</sup>

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### Links

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