

Liaison psychiatry

Liaison psychiatrists work at the interface between physical and psychological health, providing psychiatric care to medical patients.

Liaison psychiatry is a young and emerging sub-specialty of general psychiatry.

Life as a liaison psychiatrist

Your role will be to diagnose and manage patients with a wide range of mental health problems.

You'll work with physically ill people and the healthcare professionals who care for them. This means you'll manage patients with multiple, long-term chronic health conditions and liaise with clinical staff in other specialties.

Most of your patients will be of working age (18 to 65 years old) and attending general hospital, emergency departments and outpatients. Although, increasingly, patients are seen in the community and through [primary care](#) [1] services.

On hospital wards, you'll provide an assessment and treatment of a patient or advise other healthcare staff how to manage a patient. Often a patient will be confused or experiencing dementia and you'll need perseverance and excellent communication skills.

In emergency departments, you'll work closely with emergency medical staff and other clinicians to assess and treat people for a wide range of conditions including alcohol- and drug-related issues, acute psychosis and self-harm. Patients may be taking numerous medicines and you'll need to collaborate with medical colleagues to determine treatment.

A significant part of your role will be to provide informal and formal teaching and training to hospital colleagues.

Common mental health disorders you'll treat include:

- acute psychosis
- alcohol and drug addictions
- anxiety
- delirium
- dementia
- depression

- eating disorders
- neuropsychiatric disorders
- perinatal mental health problems
- self-harm

How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) [2] after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) [3] and consultants on the ['Pay for doctors'](#) [4] 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

In addition, you'll need to be able to demonstrate:

- empathy and compassion and the ability to treat others with understanding and respect
- excellent listening skills

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 treat patients with delirium, dementia and severe depression. They often have multiple and severe physical and mental health problems”.

Read Jude’s story ^[5].

How to become a liaison psychiatrist

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 liaison psychiatrist, which will take a minimum of six 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 liaison psychiatrist can take you

You could:

- specialise or conduct research in areas such as cures for dementia
- teach medical students or postgraduate students in training
- get involved in research at universities, the NHS or private sector

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○ **Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist**

Exeter, EX2 5AF

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Devon Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[8]

- **Consultant Paediatric Liaison Psychiatrist**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Paediatric Liaison Psychiatrist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[9]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - Epsom**

Dorking Road, Epsom, KT18 7EG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - Epsom job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[10]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry**

Cramlington, NE23 6NZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and wear (CNTW) NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[11]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry**

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£99532.00 to £131964.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[12]

- **LIAISON & ENHANCED TREATMENT PATHWAY CAMHS CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST**

Kent, TN12 0ER

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NELFT North East London Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for LIAISON & ENHANCED TREATMENT PATHWAY CAMHS CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist - Wigan Mental Health Liaison Team**

Wigan, WN1 2NN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Wigan Mental Health Liaison Team job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Locum Consultant Psychiatrist - Primary Care Liaison (St Albans)**

St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 5TL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Psychiatrist - Primary Care Liaison \(St Albans\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - East Surrey (attracts £25K RRP)**
Redhill Annex, Canada Avenue, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5RH
Salary:
£105504.00 to £139882.00
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - East Surrey \(attracts £25K RRP\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist Old Age Mental Health Liaison Team**
Warrington, WA5 1QG
Salary:
£105504.00 to £139882.00
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist Old Age Mental Health Liaison Team job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **Inquest Liaison Officer**
Wickford, SS11 7XX
Salary:
£46148.00 to £52809.00
Type:
Fixed-Term
Employer:
Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Inquest Liaison Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **Patient Liaison Officer**
Norwich, NR1 4NU
Salary:
Negotiable
Type:
Permanent
Employer:
Lionwood Medical Practice
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Patient Liaison Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry**

Salisbury, SP2 8BJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Team Lead - MHL D Liaison**

Newport, PO30 5TG

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Lead - MHL D Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Emergency Planning & Liaison Officer**

Plymouth, PL6 8DH

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Emergency Planning & Liaison Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [23]

- **Principal Psychologist - Psychiatric Liaison Service**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£62215.00 to £72293.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Principal Psychologist - Psychiatric Liaison Service job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [24]

- **Eye Care Liaison Officer - Macclesfield**

Macclesfield, SK10 3BL

Salary:

£18853.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

RNIB

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Eye Care Liaison Officer - Macclesfield job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [25]

- **Consultant Orthogeriatrician with Surgical Liaison**

Barnsley, S75 2EP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Orthogeriatrician with Surgical Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [26]

- **GP Liaison and Stakeholder Officer**

Brentford, TW8 9DR

Salary:

£38000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Healthshare Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for GP Liaison and Stakeholder Officer job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [27]

- **Clinical Lead, Learning Disability Liaison**

Taunton, TA1 5DA

Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Lead, Learning Disability Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [28]

- **Locum Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry**

Leeds, LS9 7BE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [29]

- **Consultant Mental Health Liaison - Bolton**

Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 0JR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHSFT

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Mental Health Liaison - Bolton job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [30]

- **RMN - Liaison Service (Kings College Hospital)**

London, SE5 9RS

Salary:

£35964.00 to £43780.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for RMN - Liaison Service \(Kings College Hospital\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **CAMHS Mental Health Liaison Support Worker**

Lincoln, LN5 7RZ

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for CAMHS Mental Health Liaison Support Worker job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry - Liaison**

Southampton, SO16 5YA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry - Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry - Liaison**

Cosham, PO6 3LY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry - Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Schools Liaison Worker - FTC (Ref: 0039ZA)**

Rotherham, S60 2EN

Salary:

£25000.00 to £25000.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

We Are With You

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Schools Liaison Worker - FTC \(Ref: 0039ZA\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

• Further information

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

[British Medical Association](#) ^[36]

[General Medical Council](#) ^[37]

[Royal College of Psychiatrists](#) ^[38]

And hear from people working in liaison psychiatry:

[Short video about liaison psychiatry \(CNWL NHS Foundation Trust\)](#) ^[39]

Other roles that may interest you

- [General practitioner](#) ^[40]
- [Emergency medicine](#) ^[41]
- [Old age psychiatry](#) ^[42]
- [Knowledge and library services](#) ^[43]

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Links

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

https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training [3]

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/career-opportunities-doctors/sas-doctors> [4]

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

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychiatry/liaison-psychiatry/real-life-story-dr-jude-harrison>

[6] <https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/> [7] <https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/> [8]

<https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9369-25-0357> [9]

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