

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**

Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 9DT

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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

- **Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist**

London, SW17 0QT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust

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

- **Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist**

Nuneaton, CV10 7DJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust

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

- **Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist - Peterborough**

Peterborough, PE3 9GZ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant-Liaison Psychiatrist Kingston**

Kingston, KT2 7QB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust

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

- **Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - Epsom**

Dorking Road, Epsom, KT18 7EG

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, Liaison - Epsom job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry**

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist Older People Liaison**

Hull, HU3 2RW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist Older People Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist - Acute Hospital Liaison, Swindon**

Swindon, SN3 6BW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Acute Hospital Liaison, Swindon job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry - Somerset**

Taunton, TA1 5DA

Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry - Somerset job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **Locum Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, Paediatric Liaison**

London, NW1 2BU

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist, Paediatric Liaison job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist - General Adult Liaison (RRP Applicable)**

Brighton, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - General Adult Liaison \(RRP Applicable\) 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

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- **Community Liaison Trusted Assessor**

Southall, UB1 3HW

Salary:

£28000.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow & Brent

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Liaison Trusted Assessor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Administrator Discharge Liaison Team**

Hull, HU3 2JZ

Salary:

£24937.00 to £26598.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Administrator Discharge Liaison Team job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[25]

- **Community Pharmacy Liaison Pharmacy Technician**

Wrexham or Abergele, LL13 7TD

Salary:

£31516.00 to £38364.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Pharmacy Liaison Pharmacy Technician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Eye Care Liaison Officer - Scarborough**

Scarborough, YO12 6QL

Salary:

£25172.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

RNIB

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Eye Care Liaison Officer - Scarborough job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Accountancy Assistant (Capital & Finance Liaison)**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Accountancy Assistant \(Capital & Finance Liaison\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Liaison and Diversion Engagement Worker**

Derbyshire, DE1 3AB

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Liaison and Diversion Engagement Worker 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]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Bury St Edmunds, IP30 9LR

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

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

[31]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

York, YO23 3FT

Salary:

£189900.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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[32]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Wetherby , LS23 7AZ

Salary:

£189900.00 to £189900.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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[33]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

York, YO23 1DE

Salary:

£109179.00 to £125637.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Brainkind

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[34]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Pentre, CF417BT

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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[35]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Baldock, SG7 6ND

Salary:

£160000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Nouvita Limited

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[36]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Market Harborough, LE16 7RP

Salary:

£180000.00 to £180000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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[37]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Hinckley, LE10 1DA

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Locum

Employer:

e-Harley Street

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[38]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Oakham , LE15 7RD

Salary:

£180000.00 to £180000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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[39]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Erith, Kent, DA8 3EE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

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[40]

- **Consultant Psychiatrist**

Widnes, WA8 0GT

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Elysium Healthcare

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[41]

- **Further information**

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

[British Medical Association](#) [42]

[General Medical Council](#) [43]

[Royal College of Psychiatrists](#) [44]

And hear from people working in liaison psychiatry:

[Short video about liaison psychiatry \(CNWL NHS Foundation Trust\)](#) [45]

Other roles that may interest you

- [General practitioner](#) [46]
- [Emergency medicine](#) [47]
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