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Psychiatry of intellectual disability (PID)

Psychiatrists working in intellectual disability assess and treat people with intellectual or learning disabilities.

This can include the assessment and management of neurodevelopmental disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity, autism spectrum disorder and epilepsy.



Life as an intellectual disability psychiatrist

People with intellectual disability (sometimes called learning disability) are more likely to have mental health problems so you'll provide patient-centric care to improve their quality of life.

Your patients will usually be adults aged over 18 years as younger patients tend to be seen by a child and adolescent psychiatrist.

You'll be required to adopt a holistic [1] approach as patients with intellectual disability often have physical conditions such as cerebral palsy or epilepsy.

Patients often present non-specifically. For example, they demonstrate withdrawal or a change in behaviour. You'll need to investigate and establish the cause in your diagnosis.

Common mental health conditions you'll treat include:

- anxiety
- bipolar disorder
- depression
- obsessive compulsive disorder
- schizophrenia

You'll work as part of a multidisciplinary team and be expected to collaborate with colleagues and a patient's family and carers.

Psychiatry is an interesting academic discipline, whether you are interested in the biological basis of mental health problems (e.g. dementia in people with Down's syndrome, behavioural phenotypes of genetic disorders), or the development of innovative service models or forensic

aspects of intellectual disability.

How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your <u>foundation training</u> [2] after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, <u>SAS doctors</u> [3] and consultants on the <u>'Pay for doctors'</u> [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, intellectual disability psychiatrists need to demonstrate:

- empathy and compassion and the ability to treat others with understanding and respect
- respect for people with intellectual disabilities and the contribution they make to society
- patience
- excellent listening skills
- willingness to build relationships with their patients

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.

What are my chances of starting a career in psychiatry of intellectual disability?

In 2021, there were 254 consultants in psychiatry of intellectual disability working in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 30 applications for 52 training places.

How to become an intellectual disability psychiatrist

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year <u>foundation?programme</u> [5]?where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid <u>specialty training</u> [6] to become an intellectual disability 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 an intellectual disability psychiatrist can take you

You could:

- specialise or conduct research
- 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

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Consultant Psychiatrist in Intellectual Disabilities - Lincoln

Lincoln, LN1 1FS Salary: Negotiable Type: Permanent Employer: Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Intellectual Disabilities -Lincoln job (opens in a new window) [7]

Consultant in Psychiatry for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities

Pembroke Dock, SA72 6DY

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00 Type: Permanent

Employer:

Hywel Dda University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Psychiatry for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities job (opens in a new window) [8]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Intellectual Disability-Little Plumstead

Norfolk, NR13 5EW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Intellectual Disability-Little Plumstead job (opens in a new window) [9]

Consultant Psychiatrist, Intellectual Disability - Pennine Lancashire

Darwen, BB3 1AY Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist, Intellectual Disability - Pennine</u> <u>Lancashire job (opens in a new window)</u> [10]

Locum Consultant Psychiatrist Intellectual Disability-Little Plumstead

Norfolk, NR13 5EW

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Psychiatrist Intellectual Disability-Little Plumstead job (opens in a new window) [11]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychiatry of Learning Disability

Leeds, LS12 3QE

Salary:

£119490.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Psychiatry of Learning Disability job (opens in a new window) [12]

Consultant Learning Disability Psychiatrist

Swansea, SA6 6AH

Salary:

£110240.00 to £160951.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swansea Bay University Health Board

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Learning Disability Psychiatrist job (opens in a new window) [13]

• Consultant Psychiatrist - Learning Disabilities (Enfield)

Enfield, EN3 5BN

Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: North London NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist - Learning Disabilities (Enfield) job (opens in a new window) [14]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Learning Disability

Southport, PR8 6PL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Learning Disability job (opens in a new window) [15]

Consultant Psychiatrist (Community Forensic Learning Disabilities)

Warrington, WA2 8WA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

<u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist (Community Forensic Learning Disabilities) job (opens in a new window)</u> [16]

COMMUNITY CAMHS LEARNING DISABILITY CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST

Canterbury, CT2 8JY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

NELFT North East London Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for COMMUNITY CAMHS LEARNING DISABILITY CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST job (opens in a new window) [17]

• Consultant Psychiatrist in Adult Learning Disability

Northallerton, DL6 2FG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Adult Learning Disability job (opens in a new window) [18]

Consultant Psychiatrist in Learning Disability (RRP 30K)

Uxbridge, UB8 3NN

Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Learning Disability (RRP</u> 30K) job (opens in a new window) [19]

• Physiotherapist (Learning Disabilities)

Enfield, EN3 5BN

Salary:

£44485.00 to £52521.00

Type:

Permanent Employer:

North London NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Physiotherapist (Learning Disabilities) job (opens in a new window) [20]

Clinical Psychologist - Learning Disabilities

Pembroke Dock, SA72 6DY Salary: £48527.00 to £55532.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Hywel Dda University Health Board Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Psychologist - Learning Disabilities job (opens in a new window) [21]

• Clinical Specialist, Learning Disabilities

London, E11 1NR Salary: £53751.00 to £60651.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Barts Health NHS Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Specialist, Learning Disabilities job (opens in a new window) [22]

Learning Disability Occupational Therapist

Dover, CT161RH

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent Employer:

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Learning Disability Occupational Therapist job (opens)

in a new window) [23]

Speech & Language Therapist - Learning Disabilities

Bodmin, PL31 2QN

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Speech & Language Therapist - Learning Disabilities</u> job (opens in a new window) [24]

Consultant in Learning Disabilities - IOW

Sandown, PO36 9EA Salary: £99532.00 to £131964.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Learning Disabilities - IOW job (opens in a new window) [25]

• Occupational Therapist - Community Learning Disabilities

London, HA1 3UJ

Salary: £35763.00 to £43466.00 Type: Fixed-Term Employer: Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Occupational Therapist - Community Learning Disabilities job (opens in a new window) [26]

Case Manager - Disability Support Team

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Stourbridge, DY8 4JB

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Case Manager - Disability Support Team job (opens in

a new window) [27]
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Learning Disability and Autism Administrator

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Plymouth, PL6 8DH
Salary:
	£24937.00 to £26598.00
Type:
	Permanent
Employer:
	University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
Apply now on NHS Jobs for Learning Disability and Autism Administrator job
(opens in a new window) [28]
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• Behaviour Therapist – Learning Disability Community Service

Billericay, CM12 9NW

Salary: £40617.00 to £48778.00 Type: Fixed-Term Employer:

Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Behaviour Therapist – Learning Disability Community</u> <u>Service job (opens in a new window)</u> [29]

• CYP Occupational Therapist- CYP Learning Disability

Wirral, CH61 5UB

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for CYP Occupational Therapist- CYP Learning Disability job (opens in a new window) [30]

Learning Disabilities Support Workers (Days Only)

Huddersfield, HD1 4HR

Salary:

£26208.00 to £27248.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnet Health Care Apply now on NHS Jobs for Learning Disabilities Support Workers (Days Only) job (opens in a new window) [31]

• Family Support Worker - Disabled Children's Service

Banbury, OX16 5AU Salary: £30559.00 to £36124.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Oxfordshire County Council Apply now on NHS Jobs for Family Support Worker - Disabled Children's Service job (opens in a new window) [32]

• Clinical Lead OT- Complex Disability Team

Wirral, CH63 4JY

Salary: £46148.00 to £52809.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Lead OT- Complex Disability Team job (opens</u> in a new window) [33]

Senior Specialist Occupational Therapist - Learning Disabilities

Grimsby, DN32 7DH Salary: £43906.00 to £50612.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Care Plus Group Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Specialist Occupational Therapist - Learning Disabilities job (opens in a new window) [34]

• Head of Nursing - Mental Health & Learning Disabilities

Caerleon, NP18 3XQ

Salary: £78120.00 to £90013.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Apply now on NHS Jobs for Head of Nursing - Mental Health & Learning Disabilities job (opens in a new window) [35]

• Children and Young Peoples Disability Social Worker

Trowbridge, BA14 8JN

Salary: £42489.00 to £44524.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Wiltshire Council <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Children and Young Peoples Disability Social Worker</u> job (opens in a new window) [36]

• Childrens Learning Disability Support Worker, East Sussex

Bexhill-on-sea, TN40 2DZ Eastbourne, BN21 2UD Salary: £13.00 to £15.00 Type: Bank Employer: Claimont Health LTD Apply now on NHS Jobs for Childrens Learning Disability Support Worker, East Sussex job (opens in a new window) [37]

Consultant Core CYPMHS and Learning Disability Team

Leeds, LS11 5LQ

Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Core CYPMHS and Learning Disability Team job (opens in a new window) [38]

• Children and Young Peoples Disability Social Worker

Trowbridge, BA14 8JN Salary: £43848.00 to £45948.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Wiltshire Council Apply now on NHS Jobs for Children and Young Peoples Disability Social Worker job (opens in a new window) [39]

• Bank Support Worker, Learning Disabilities, Complex Care

Hereford, HR1 2PJ Salary: £16.00 Type: Bank Employer: Airmid Staffing Ltd Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank Support Worker, Learning Disabilities, Complex Care job (opens in a new window) [40]

• Advanced Clinical Practitioner - MH, Learning Disability & Autism

London, SW17 0YF

Salary: £64156.00 to £71148.00 Type: Fixed-Term Employer: South West London and St Georges Mental Health NHS Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Clinical Practitioner - MH, Learning

Disability & Autism job (opens in a new window) [41]

Community Mental Health and Learning Disability Advocate

Llandrindod, LD1 5HF

Salary:

£31516.00 to £38364.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Powys Teaching Health Board <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Community Mental Health and Learning Disability</u> <u>Advocate job (opens in a new window)</u> [42]

• Clinical Lead - Acute Learning Disability & Autism Liaison

Bristol, BS2 8HW Salary: £47810.00 to £54710.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Sirona care & health CIC Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Lead - Acute Learning Disability & Autism Liaison job (opens in a new window) [43]

Clinical Team Leader - Learning Disabilities - £7k Incentive*

Preston, PR3 2JH Salary: £37338.00 to £44962.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Lancashire & South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Team Leader - Learning Disabilities - £7k Incentive* job (opens in a new window) [44]

Senior Practitioner - Disabled Children Access and Referral Team

Huntingdon , PE29 3AD Salary: £44260.00 to £47277.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Cambridgeshire County Council Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Practitioner - Disabled Children Access and Referral Team job (opens in a new window) [45]

Band 5 Learning Disability and Autism Practitioner - Bristol

Bristol, BS16 2EW Salary: £31049.00 to £37796.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 5 Learning Disability and Autism Practitioner -Bristol job (opens in a new window) [46]

Care Group Medical Director - Mental Health & Learning Disabilities

Health Board Wide, CF45 4SN

Salary: £110240.00 to £160951.00 Type: Fixed-Term Employer: Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board <u>Apply now on NHS Jobs for Care Group Medical Director - Mental Health &</u> Learning Disabilities job (opens in a new window) [47]

• 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) [48]

Consultant Psychiatrist within Rehabilitation Psychiatry

Plymouth, PL4 7PY

Salary: £105504.00 to £139882.00 Type: Permanent Employer: Livewell Southwest Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist within Rehabilitation Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [49]

• Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry

Harrogate, HG27SX

Salary: £109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Psychiatrist in Liaison Psychiatry job (opens in a new window) [50]

• Further information

The <u>Royal College of Psychiatrists</u> [51] has further information about being a psychiatrist of intellectual disability, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

Other roles that may interest you

- General practitioner [52]
- Old age psychiatry [53]
- Liaison psychiatry [54]
- Knowledge and library services [55]

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Links

[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Holistic [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://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/ [6] https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/ [7] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9274-25-0305 [8] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/H9100-25-0977 [9] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9367-25-0528 [10] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9351-25-0685 [11] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9367-25-0625 [12] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9173-25-0307 [13] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/H9130-25-0597 [14] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9455-25-0424 [15] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9350-25-0927 [16] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9350-25-0301 [17] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9395-25-0667 [18] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9346-LD-25M2 [19] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9333-25-0977 [20] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9455-25-0420 [21] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/H9100-25-0925 [22] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9259-25-1729 [23] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9846-25-0512 [24] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9201-25-0749 [25] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9348-25-1689 [26] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9333-25-0975 [27] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9253-25-0307 [28] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9216-25-0974 [29] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9364-25-0811 [30] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9373-25-0621 [31] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/E0233-25-1541 [32] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/F0069-25-0049 [33] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9408-25-0550 [34] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B9814-25-183 [35] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/H9040-25-1069 [36] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/F0041-25-0045 [37] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/L0047-25-0049 [38] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9833-630-25 [39] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/F0041-4557-04 [40] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/L0125-25-0001 [41] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9294-25-0404 [42] https://beta.iobs.nhs.uk/candidate/iobadvert/H9070-25-0442 [43] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B9083-25-0382 [44] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9351-25-0690 [45] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/F0063-25-0130 [46] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9342-25-0699 [47] https://beta.iobs.nhs.uk/candidate/iobadvert/H9110-25-1179 [48] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9301-25-0684 [49] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/B9832-MD-2025-347 [50] https://beta.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9346-MHSOP-205 [51] https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/becomea-psychiatrist/choose-psychiatry/what-is-psychiatry/types-of-psychiatrist/intellectual-disability [52] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/general-practitioner [53] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/psychiatry/old-age-psychiatry[54] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/psychiatry/liaison-psychiatry [55] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/roles-health-informatics/knowledge-andlibrary-services