

# Geriatric medicine

Geriatricians provide comprehensive medical care to older people.

Geriatric medicine is the largest medical specialty, and your role will be a wide and varied one.

Can't see the video? You'll need to accept all [cookies](#) <sup>[1]</sup>. Alternatively, visit our YouTube Channel to view our [videos](#) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Life as a geriatrician

You'll diagnose and treat acute illnesses, chronic diseases, disability and frailty. Your patients will often have several medical conditions and be taking a number of different medicines.

Common conditions you'll treat include:

- fractures
- delirium
- dementia
- incontinence
- poor mobility
- frailty

As part of a multidisciplinary team, you'll work closely with medical colleagues including GPs and other hospital doctors as well as experts in the community such as social workers. Your ability to collaborate and work well with others will be vital.

Given the varied nature of your role, you'll work in a multitude of settings including:

- outpatient departments
- A&E
- medical assessment units
- acute care wards (e.g. coronary care, high dependence, [intensive care](#) <sup>[3]</sup> and acute [stroke](#) <sup>[4]</sup> care)
- rehabilitation wards
- intermediate and long-term care wards
- day-care centres
- care homes
- hospices

The role demands a strong sense of compassion and the ability to adopt a [holistic](#) <sup>[5]</sup>, patient-centric approach. You'll provide rehabilitation after illness and need a comprehensive knowledge of physical treatments, adaptations and aids.

Older people may react differently to drugs so you'll need an excellent understanding of adverse drug reactions, drug interventions and how these might be affected by a patient's condition.

An important part of your job will be to enable patients to be supported at home or transferred from hospital to home, which is often a complex process.

During your training it's important you develop an excellent understanding of palliative and end of life care. You'll also need to excel in orthogeriatrics (medical care for people with orthopaedic trauma), old age psychiatry and specialist [stroke](#) <sup>[4]</sup> care.

Due to the unique nature of your work, you'll need to understand the legal and ethical issues surrounding work with older people, including appointment of power of attorney, guardianship, mental health legislation and resuscitation.

## How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) <sup>[6]</sup> after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) <sup>[7]</sup> and consultants on the [Pay for doctors](#) <sup>[8]</sup> 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

## 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 got a taste of what working in geriatric medicine was like as part of my medicine training and I really enjoyed it. I was also drawn to the intellectual challenge of dealing with multiple problems in a single patient so I decided to specialise in this branch of medicine.**

**Read Adam's story** <sup>[9]</sup>.

## **What are my chances of starting a career as a geriatrician?**

There are approximately 1,514 geriatricians working in the NHS in England. In 2020, there were 392 applications for 202 specialty training places.

## **How to become a geriatrician**

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year foundation programme <sup>[10]</sup> where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training <sup>[11]</sup> to become a geriatrician, which will take a minimum of six or seven 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 geriatrician can take you**

Once you're a qualified geriatrician, you'll have the chance to undertake an additional one-year training scheme in stroke <sup>[4]</sup> medicine to achieve what's known as sub-specialty recognition.

Consultants are involved in managing geriatric services and you'll have plenty of opportunities to undertake research and teach.

You'll also have many opportunities to develop special interests within geriatrics. These can be based around a particular stage in a person's illness (temporal illnesses) or based around specific disease processes. Most geriatricians enjoy looking after a wide range of conditions.

- **Live vacancies**

## Find a vacancy

Enter your location or postcode

Show results within

Search

- **Trust Doctor in Geriatric Medicine**

London, E11 1NR

Salary:

£41750.00 to £64288.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor in Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

- **Trust Doctor in Geriatric Medicine**

London, E13 8SL

Salary:

£41750.00 to £64288.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Trust Doctor in Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

Harlow, CM20 1QX

Salary:

£84559.00 to £114003.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust

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

[14]

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

York, YO31 8HE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

[15]

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

Wirral, CH49 5PE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

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

[16]

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

Guildford, GU2 7XX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust

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

[17]

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

Taunton, TA1 5DA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

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

[18]

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

London, SE18 4QH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

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

[19]

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

Newport, PO30 5TG

Salary:

£99532.00 to £131964.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Isle of Wight NHS Trust

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

[20]

- **Consultant Geriatrician**

Oldham, OL1 2JH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

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

[21]

- **Surgical Specialist Grade Geriatrician**

Oldham, OL1 2JH

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Surgical Specialist Grade Geriatrician job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Consultant in Geriatrics**

Frimley, GU16 7UJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Geriatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#)  
<sup>[23]</sup>

- **Consultant in Geriatrics**

Sutton-In-Ashfield, NG17 4JL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Geriatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#)  
<sup>[24]</sup>

- **Consultant - Eldercare / Geriatric Medicine**

Truro, TR1 3LQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Eldercare / Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[25]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine**

Port Talbot, SA12 7BX

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Swansea Bay University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[26]</sup>

- **Consultant in Community Geriatric Medicine**

Petersfield, GU32 3LB

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 Community Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Consultant in Frailty and Geriatrics**

Margate, CT9 4AN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Frailty and Geriatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine**

London, N18 1QX

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term



Employer:

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Consultant Physician in Geriatric Medicine**

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 Physician in Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Consultant Geriatrician - Acute Frailty \*Welcome Bonus 12K\***

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Geriatrician - Acute Frailty \\*Welcome Bonus 12K\\* job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Consultant or Specialist in Geriatric Medicine**

Daventry, NN11 4DY

Salary:

£96990.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant or Specialist in Geriatric Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[32]</sup>

- **Orthogeriatric and Surgical In Reach Geriatric Consultant**

Oldham, OL1 2JH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Orthogeriatric and Surgical In Reach Geriatric](#)

[Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

- **Consultant in Geriatric & General Medicine \*Welcome Bonus 12K\***

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Geriatric & General Medicine \\*Welcome](#)

[Bonus 12K\\* job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **Consultant in Geriatric Medicine with Specialist interest in Stroke**

Chester, CH2 1UL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Geriatric Medicine with Specialist interest](#)

[in Stroke job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[35]</sup>

- **Elderly Care Consultant with Special Interest in Acute Geriatrics**

Dorchester, DT1 2JY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Elderly Care Consultant with Special Interest in Acute](#)

[Geriatrics job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

- **PCAS Doctor**

Kent & Sussex, TN240GP

Salary:

£110240.00 to £110240.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Integrated Care 24 Ltd

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

- **Specialty Doctor**

Salford, M6 7WQ

Salary:

£82000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

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

- **ENT Doctor**

Sheffield, S9 1XH

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Canterbury, CT1 1BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

London, SE14 6BL

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Wandsworth, SW18 4WW

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Slough, SL1 2EJ

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **ENT Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [45]

- **ENT Doctor**

Leeds, LS16 6EB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [46]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Macclesfield, SK11 6HB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [47]

- **ENT Doctor**

Swindon, SN3 3RB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [48]

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Swindon, SN3 3RB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Sheffield, S9 1XH

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[50]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Milton Keynes , MK11 3LW

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Milton Keynes , MK11 3LW

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[51]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Leeds, LS16 6EB

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[52]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor**

Blackpool, FY3 8NU

Salary:

£80000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[53]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Leicester, LE1 2BU

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

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

- **Specialty Doctor**

Chesterfield, S44 5BL

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[55]</sup>

- **Dermatology Doctor**

Worthing, BN11 3BN

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Dermatology Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[56]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor**

London, SE18 4QH

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[57]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor**

Sheffield, S2 3PX

Salary:

£82500.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cygnnet Health Care

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[58]</sup>

- **ENT Doctor**

Nottingham , NG8 5DQ

Salary:

£550.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

CHEC

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ENT Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[59]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor**

Mapplewell, S75 6AJ

Salary:

£68174.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[60]</sup>



- **Specialty Doctor UTC**

Kingston upon Thames, KT2 7QB

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Kingston and Richmond NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor UTC job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[61]</sup>

- **Resident Doctor PICU**

London, W1W 5AH

Salary:

£80000.00 to £98000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

HCA Healthcare UK

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Resident Doctor PICU job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[62]</sup>

- **Bank UCC Doctor**

London, NW8 9NH

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Bank

Employer:

The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Bank UCC Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[62]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor - Oncology**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor - Oncology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[64]</sup>

- **Specialist Doctor D2A**

Burslem, ST67AG

Salary:

£96990.00 to £107155.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Doctor D2A job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[65]</sup>

- **Doctors Receptionist / Administrator**

Southend on Sea, SS2 4UB

Salary:

£12.21

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Central Surgery

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Doctors Receptionist / Administrator job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[66]</sup>

- **Urgent Care Doctor**

London, NW8 9NH

Salary:

£85000.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Urgent Care Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[67]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor (Nutrition)**

Scunthorpe, DN15 7BH

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor \(Nutrition\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[68]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor Frailty**

Maidstone, ME16 9QQ

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor Frailty job \(opens in a new window\)](#)

[69]

- **Ophthalmic Specialty Doctor**

Bedford, MK42 9DJ

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Ophthalmic Specialty Doctor job \(opens in a new window\)](#) [70]

- **Further information**

These organisations have further information about being a geriatric medicine doctor, particularly as your career progresses. Take a look.

[Royal College of Physicians](#) [71]

[Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh](#) [72]

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) [73]

[The British Geriatrics Society](#) [74]

[Association for Elderly Medicine Education](#) [75]

[British and Irish Association of Stroke Physicians](#) [76]

And hear from people working in geriatric medicine:

[A career in geriatricians \(UKFPO\)](#) [77]

Dr Sally Jones, consultant geriatrician (RCP) [78]

Dr Jenny Lonnen, an ST5 trainee in geriatric medicine (RCPE) [79]

Dr Michael Alcorn, an ST5 trainee in geriatric medicine and GIM (RCPE) [80]

## Other roles that may interest you

- Neurologist [81]
- Palliative medicine [82]
- Rehabilitation medicine [83]
- General internal medicine [84]

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