

# Gastroenterology

Gastroenterologists diagnose, treat and work to prevent gastrointestinal (stomach and intestines) and hepatological (liver, gallbladder, biliary tree and pancreas) diseases.

Male and female doctors on the ward

## Life as a gastroenterologist

You'll run [endoscopy](#) <sup>[1]</sup> services. You'll be expected to perform upper gastrointestinal (GI) examinations and have the opportunity to train in lower GI as well, procedures such as [flexible sigmoidoscopy](#) <sup>[2]</sup> and [colonoscopy](#) <sup>[3]</sup>. You can complete additional training in hepatobiliary [endoscopy](#) <sup>[1]</sup> (ERCP <sup>[4]</sup>) or small bowel [endoscopy](#) <sup>[1]</sup>, which involves learning wireless capsule [endoscopy](#) <sup>[1]</sup> or [enteroscopy](#).

A typical day may see you perform:

- diagnostic and therapeutic upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy
- small bowel endoscopy
- endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP <sup>[4]</sup>) – an endoscopic technique mainly used to diagnose and treat bile duct and pancreatic duct conditions
- endoscopic [ultrasound](#) <sup>[5]</sup> (EUS)
- intestinal and liver biopsy
- [paracentesis](#) <sup>[6]</sup> (puncture of the wall of a cavity using a hollow needle)
- insertion of [parenteral nutrition](#) <sup>[7]</sup> line (intravenous feeding lines)

You'll also plan the aftercare of patients undergoing liver transplant.

You'll manage patients with acute gastroenterological conditions and treat a wide range of GI diseases.

You'll regularly treat conditions such as:

- gastrointestinal bleeding
- gastrointestinal cancer
- anaemia – a condition where the haemoglobin in the blood (a pigment that carries oxygen) is below normal levels
- inflammatory bowel disease, e.g., Crohn's disease (inflammation of the lining of the digestive system), ulcerative colitis (inflammation and ulceration of the lining of the rectum and colon)

- short bowel syndrome
- jaundice – a condition where the skin yellows due to an accumulation of bilirubin in the blood and tissues
- management of alcoholic, viral hepatitis (Inflammation of the liver caused by a virus) and autoimmune liver disorders (where the body attacks its own cells)
- diverticulitis - inflammation of the diverticula (small pouches) in the intestine
- gastroenteritis
- hepatitis

## How much can I earn?

You'll first earn a salary when you start your [foundation training](#) <sup>[8]</sup> after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) <sup>[9]</sup> and consultants on the [Pay for doctors](#) <sup>[10]</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.

## What are my chances of starting a career as a gastroenterologist?

In 2020, there were 373 applications for 79 specialty training places.

## How to become a gastroenterologist

After medical school, you'll join the paid two-year foundation programme <sup>[11]</sup> where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training <sup>[12]</sup> to become a gastroenterologist, which will take a minimum of 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 gastroenterologist can take you

Your main focus will be hepatology (diseases of the liver) but as your career develops, you'll also be able to specialise in:

- hepatology (diseases of the liver)
- pancreaticobiliary diseases (diseases of the pancreas and biliary system)
- inflammatory bowel disease
- functional bowel disease
- tropical diseases
- gastrointestinal cancer and its prevention
- endoscopic surveillance
- upper GI disease (diseases of the oesophagus and stomach)
- small bowel disease
- pancreatic disease
- transplantation
- medico legal issues in medicine
- clinical pharmacology
- inherited cancer syndromes
- clinical nutrition

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- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Yeovil, BA21 4AT

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

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 Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Boston, PE21 9QS

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Peterborough, PE3 6DF

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

London, SW17 0QT

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist (Hepatology)**

Harrow, HA1 3UJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Stoke on Trent, ST4 6QG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Carlisle, CA2 7HY

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[21]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Romford, RM7 0AG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[22]</sup>

- **Gastroenterology Consultant**

Swindon, SN3 6BB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Gastroenterology**

Lancaster, LA14 4RP

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

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

- **Consultant Gastroenterology**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Gastroenterology Consultant**

London, NW3 2QG

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Inpatient Gastroenterology Dietitian**

Barnstaple, EX314JB

Salary:

£38682.00 to £46580.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Inpatient Gastroenterology Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[27]</sup>

- **Specialty Doctor Gastroenterology**

Harrogate, HG2 7SX

Salary:

£59175.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[28]</sup>

- **Advanced Dietitian - Gastroenterology**

Worthing, BN11 2DH

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Dietitian - Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[29]</sup>

- **Paediatric Gastroenterology CNS**

Brighton, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Paediatric Gastroenterology CNS job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[30]</sup>

- **Lead Nurse - Gastroenterology**

Oldham, OL1 2JH

Salary:

£55690.00 to £62682.00



Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Lead Nurse - Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[31]</sup>

- **Consultant in Gastroenterology**

Bridgend, CF31 1RQ

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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- **Specialty Doctor in Gastroenterology**

Bangor, LL57 2PW

Salary:

£59727.00 to £95400.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Doctor in Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[33]</sup>

- **Medical Secretary - Gastroenterology (INTERNAL)**

Hereford, HR1 2ER

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

Wye Valley NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Secretary - Gastroenterology \(INTERNAL\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[34]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Gastroenterology**

Ipswich, IP4 5PD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant in Gastroenterology**

Guildford, GU2 7XX

Salary:

£109725.00 to £145478.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant in Gastroenterology**

Rotherham, S60 2UD

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Locum Consultant in Gastroenterology**

Bridgend, CF31 1RQ

Salary:

£121264.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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

- **Highly Specialist Dietitian - Gastroenterology**

Liverpool, L9 7AL

Salary:

£47810.00 to £54710.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Dietitian - Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Paediatric Gastroenterology**

London, SW10 9NH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Highly Specialist Medical Gastroenterology Dietitian**

Torquay, TQ2 7AA

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Medical Gastroenterology Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

- **Gastroenterology Trust Registrar IBD Fellow**

Park Royal, NW10 7NS

Salary:

£41750.00 to £64288.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Gastroenterology Trust Registrar IBD Fellow job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[42]</sup>

- **Team Leader - Digestive Diseases (Gastroenterology)**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£27485.00 to £30162.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Team Leader - Digestive Diseases \(Gastroenterology\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[43]</sup>

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist with a special interest in IBD**

Brighton and Hove / Haywards Health, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Gastroenterologist with a special interest in IBD job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[44]</sup>

- **Specialty Training Programme Director for Gastroenterology**

Bristol, BS1 6AG

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialty Training Programme Director for Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[45]</sup>

- **Gastroenterology and Hepatology Day Case Unit**

Oxford, OX3 9DU

Salary:

£31049.00 to £37796.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Gastroenterology and Hepatology Day Case Unit job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[46]</sup>

- **Locum Consultant in Gastroenterology with G(I)M**

Weston-super-Mare, BS23 2ED

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant in Gastroenterology with G\(I\)M job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[47]</sup>

- **Senior Clinical Research Fellow in Gastroenterology and Endoscopy**

Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Salary:

£46324.00 to £71814.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Clinical Research Fellow in Gastroenterology and Endoscopy job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[48]</sup>

- **Band 7/8a Specialist Clinical Pharmacist – Gastroenterology and IBD**

Birmingham, B9 5SS

Salary:

£47810.00 to £62682.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 7/8a Specialist Clinical Pharmacist – Gastroenterology and IBD job \(opens in a new window\)](#) <sup>[49]</sup>

- **Further information**

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

[Royal College of Physicians](#) [50]

[Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh](#) [51]

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) [52]

[British Society of Gastroenterology](#) [53]

And hear from people working as gastroenterologists.

[Professor John Hunter, a gastroenterologist \(UKFPO\)](#) [54]

[Specialty registrar in gastroenterology \(RCPE\)](#) [55]

[Dr GuraAithal, medicine – gastroenterology \(HEEM\)](#) [56]

## Other roles that may interest you

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