

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](#) ^[1] 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](#) ^[2] and [colonoscopy](#) ^[3]. You can complete additional training in hepatobiliary [endoscopy](#) ^[1] (ERCP ^[4]) or small bowel [endoscopy](#) ^[1], which involves learning wireless capsule [endoscopy](#) ^[1] or [enteroscopy](#).

A typical day may see you perform:

- diagnostic and therapeutic upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy
- small bowel endoscopy
- endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP ^[4]) – an endoscopic technique mainly used to diagnose and treat bile duct and pancreatic duct conditions
- endoscopic [ultrasound](#) ^[5] (EUS)
- intestinal and liver biopsy
- [paracentesis](#) ^[6] (puncture of the wall of a cavity using a hollow needle)
- insertion of [parenteral nutrition](#) ^[7] 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](#) ^[8] after medical school. Find out details of current salary ranges for foundation and specialty training, [SAS doctors](#) ^[9] and consultants on the [Pay for doctors](#) ^[10] 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 ^[11] where you'll work in six placements in different settings.

After your foundation programme, you can apply for paid specialty training ^[12] 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

- **Live vacancies**

Find a vacancy

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- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

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 Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **Specialist Gastroenterologist**

Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5TG

Salary:

£96990.00 to £107155.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Isle of Wight NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Consultant - Gastroenterologist**

Camberley, GU16 7UJ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant - Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[16]

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist (General)**

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Gastroenterologist \(General\) job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[18]

- **Consultant Luminal Gastroenterologist**

London, E11 1NR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Luminal Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[19]

- **Gastroenterology Consultant**

Stockport, SK2 7JE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Gastroenterology Consultant**

Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 4LF

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Gastroenterology Consultant job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[22]

- **Consultant in Gastroenterology**

Colchester, CO4 5JL

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 Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[23]

- **Medical Secretary - Gastroenterology**

Dorchester, DT1 2JY

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Secretary - Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

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

- **Consultant in Gastroenterology**

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 Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **Consultant In Gastroenterology**

London, E13 8SL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant In Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Oesophageal Consultant- Gastroenterology**

London, SE1 7EH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Oesophageal Consultant- Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[28]

- **Medical Secretary - Gastroenterology**

Walsall, WS2 9PS

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Medical Secretary - Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[29]

- **Support Secretary, Gastroenterology**

Redditch, B987UB

Salary:

£24625.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Support Secretary, Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[30]

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist with interest in Neuroendocrine Tumours**

Cardiff, CF14 4XW

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Gastroenterologist with interest in Neuroendocrine Tumours job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **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 Gastroenterologist with a special interest in IBD job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Locum Consultant Paediatric Gastroenterology**

Bristol, BS2 8BJ

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 Paediatric Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

- **Clinical Teaching Fellow - Gastroenterology**

Cardiff, CF14 4YU

Salary:

£49909.00 to £61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Teaching Fellow - Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[34]

- **Consultant in Paediatric Gastroenterology**

London, SW10 9NH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Paediatric Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[35]

- **Gastroenterology Advanced Clinical Practitioner**

Crewe, CW1 3YD

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Gastroenterology Advanced Clinical Practitioner job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **Locum Consultant Gastroenterology - IBD**

Watford, WD18 0HB

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Gastroenterology - IBD job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[37]

- **Highly Specialist Pharmacist Gastroenterology**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Pharmacist Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[38]

- **Specialist Doctor in Gastroenterology**

Stoke on Trent, ST4 6QG

Salary:

£96990.00 to £107155.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospital of North Midlands NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Doctor in Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[39]

- **Advanced Specialist Pharmacist - Gastroenterology**

Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ

Salary:

£53755.00 to £60504.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Specialist Pharmacist - Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist with special interest in ERCP & EUS**

Blackpool, FY3 8NR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant Gastroenterologist with special interest in ERCP & EUS job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[41]

- **Highly Specialist Dietitian in Gastroenterology**

Uckfield, TN22 5AW

Salary:

£46148.00 to £52809.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust
[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Highly Specialist Dietitian in Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **Senior Fellow in Gastroenterology-Nutrition**

London, WC1N 3JH

Salary:

£54468.00 to £64288.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Senior Fellow in Gastroenterology-Nutrition job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[43]

- **Departmental Secretary - Gastroenterology and Hepatology**

Luton, LU4 0DZ

Salary:

£26530.00 to £29114.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Departmental Secretary - Gastroenterology and Hepatology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[44]

- **Clinical Fellow in Paediatric Gastroenterology**

London, WC1N 3JH

Salary:

£54468.00 to £64288.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow in Paediatric Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[45]

- **ST3+ Gastroenterology with General (Internal) Medicine**

Weston, BS23 4TQ

Salary:

£61825.00 to £70425.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for ST3+ Gastroenterology with General \(Internal\) Medicine job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[46]

- **Consultant in Hepatology with General Gastroenterology**

London, E13 8SL

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Barts Health NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Consultant in Hepatology with General Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[47]

- **Advanced Specialist St Marks Gastroenterology Dietitian**

London, HA1 3UJ

Salary:

£51883.00 to £58544.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Advanced Specialist St Marks Gastroenterology Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[48]

- **Training Programme Director Gastroenterology -NorthCentral East London**

London, E14 4PU

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Secondment

Employer:

NHS England

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Training Programme Director Gastroenterology - NorthCentral East London job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[49]

- **Clinical Fellow Gastroenterology, Intestinal Rehab & Transplant (ST3+)**

Cambridge, CB2 0QQ

Salary:

£61825.00 to £72211.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow Gastroenterology, Intestinal Rehab & Transplant (ST3+) job (opens in a new window) ^[50]

- **General Medicine Consultant with special interest in Gastroenterology**

Southport, PR8 6PN

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Apply now on NHS Jobs for General Medicine Consultant with special interest in Gastroenterology job (opens in a new window) ^[51]

- **Further information**

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

Royal College of Physicians ^[52]

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh ^[53]

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow ^[54]

British Society of Gastroenterology ^[55]

And hear from people working as gastroenterologists.

Professor John Hunter, a gastroenterologist (UKFPO) ^[56]

Specialty registrar in gastroenterology (RCPE) ^[57]

Dr GuraAithal, medicine – gastroenterology (HEEM) ^[58]

Other roles that may interest you

- [Endocrinology and diabetes](#) [59]
- [Medical oncology](#) [60]
- [General internal medicine](#) [61]
- [General surgery](#) [62]

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