

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**

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- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[13]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[14]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[15]

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Shepton Mallet, BA4 4LP

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Practice Plus Group

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

- **Locum Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Isleworth, TW7 6AF

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 Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[17]

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[20]

- **Fixed Term Consultant Gastroenterologist**

Brighton / Haywards Heath, BN2 5BE

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust (279)

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Fixed Term Consultant Gastroenterologist job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[21]

- **Consultant Gastroenterologist/ Colorectal Surgeon**

Manchester, M22 4DB

Salary:

Negotiable

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Beacon Medical Services Group Ltd

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

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[24]

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[26]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[27]

- **Specialist in Gastroenterology**

Grimsby, DN33 2BA

Salary:

£96990.00 to £107155.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust

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

- **Gastroenterology Support Secretary**

Wirral, CH49 5PE

Salary:

£24071.00 to £25674.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Wirral University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

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

- **Consultant in Gastroenterology**

Bridgend, CF31 1RQ

Salary:

£106000.00 to £154760.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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

- **Oesophageal Consultant- Gastroenterology**

London, SE1 7EH

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Locum

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Oesophageal Consultant- Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[31]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[32]

- **Specialist Gastroenterology Dietitian**

London, SE1 7EH

Salary:

£44806.00 to £53134.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Specialist Gastroenterology Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[33]

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

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[36]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[37]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[38]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[39]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[40]

- **Staff Nurse - Gastroenterology Ward L2**

Salford, M6 8HD

Salary:

£29970.00 to £36483.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Staff Nurse - Gastroenterology Ward L2 job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[41]

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

Rainhill, Prescot, L35 5DR

Salary:

£105504.00 to £139882.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Locum Consultant Gastroenterologist with special interest in IBD job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[42]

- **Clinical Fellow in Endoscopy / Luminal Gastroenterology**

Leicester, LE1 5WW

Salary:

£61825.00

Type:

Fixed-Term

Employer:

University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Clinical Fellow in Endoscopy / Luminal Gastroenterology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[43]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[44]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[45]

- **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 \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[46]

- **Band 6 Gastroenterology and Nutrition Support Dietitian**

Birmingham, B15 2TH

Salary:

£37338.00 to £44962.00

Type:

Permanent

Employer:

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

[Apply now on NHS Jobs for Band 6 Gastroenterology and Nutrition Support Dietitian job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[47]

- **Clinical Fellow in Gastroenterology-IBD and Mucosal Immunology**

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 Gastroenterology-IBD and Mucosal Immunology job \(opens in a new window\)](#) ^[48]

- **Further information**

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

[Royal College of Physicians](#) ^[49]

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

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#) ^[51]

[British Society of Gastroenterology](#) ^[52]

And hear from people working as gastroenterologists.

Professor John Hunter, a gastroenterologist (UKFPO) [53]

Specialty registrar in gastroenterology (RCPE) [54]

Dr GuraAithal, medicine – gastroenterology (HEEM) [55]

Other roles that may interest you

- Endocrinology and diabetes [56]
- Medical oncology [57]
- General internal medicine [58]
- General surgery [59]

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