

## Alternative roles for doctors

The following section is for doctors, medical trainees or medical students who are considering a move to an alternative career. You will find ideas of jobs where a medical degree and clinical training or experience are valued.

The skills you have gained from medical training and clinical practice are highly transferable to a variety of professions. These include scientific, technological, managerial and financial roles.

Transferable skills you will have gained include:

- communication skills
- empathy
- problem-solving
- coping with pressure
- professional integrity
- team working
- decision-making

Find out more about:

- the civil service [1]
- the defence medical services [2]
- expedition medicine [3]
- law [4]
- medical communications and medical writing [5]
- medical education [6]
- medical journalism [7]
- medical politics and ethics [8]
- medical research [9]
- NHS management [10]
- pharmaceutical medicine [11]
- prison health service [12]
- working abroad - developed countries [13] and developing countries [14]

For a longer downloadable resource, look at our alternative careers for medical students document [15].

- Expand / collapse  
Steps to success
  - be realistic - changing careers is not an easy process and could mean a drop in salary or seniority
  - market your transferable skills [16]
  - gain some experience in the sector you want to move into
  - research new roles carefully

- develop contacts that can help you make the transition

Expand / collapse

#### Resources

- Medical Success [17] is a website with ideas of alternative medical career paths for doctors beyond the hospital or the GP surgery
- Medic Footprints [18] is an independent, doctor-led, and unbiased organisation which enables the medical profession to explore career opportunities beyond the conventional

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**Source URL:** <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/career-opportunities-doctors/alternative-roles-doctors>

#### Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/information-doctors/alternative-roles-doctors/civil-service>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/information-doctors/alternative-roles-doctors/defence-medical-services>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/information-doctors/alternative-roles-doctors/expedition-medicine>
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- [13] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/information-doctors/alternative-roles-doctors/working-abroad-developed>
- [14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/information-doctors/alternative-roles-doctors/working-abroad>
- [15] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/resources/alternative-career-options-medical-students>
- [16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/resources/common-skills-medical-specialty-training>
- [17] <http://medicalsucces.net/>
- [18] <https://medicfootprints.org/>