Geriatric medicine is one of the largest branches of general medicine in the UK.  

Health Education England is commissioned 610 training places for geriatric medicine higher specialty training in 2016/17.

Women make up 62% of higher specialty trainees in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"This role is everything I could have hoped for. I enjoy the intellectual challenge it brings and how fascinating and rewarding it is." — Adam Gordon (Consultant geriatrician)

Skills and qualities needed
You need empathy and the ability to communicate with older people. You also need the ability to advocate against ageism and the stereotyping of old people.

Entry requirements
For 5-year medical school courses, you will need very high A-level grades including sciences. There are other routes in if you have non-science subjects or a degree, but for all you must demonstrate an interest in medicine. You’ll also need to pass an interview and usually take an admissions test.

Training
Following a minimum of five years at university and two years training afterwards, you will typically train for six years to become a geriatrician.

‘What they say’

Managerial opportunities for geriatric medicine consultants include clinical lead, clinical director and medical director.

There are currently 50 vacancies in the NHS for geriatric medicine.

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