

**I see the
difference
I can make to
people's lives**



**Healthcare specialists:
your career options**

**I SEE THE
DIFFERENCE**

Healthcare specialists spend their careers helping patients live the fullest lives possible.

They work directly with patients, where they can really see the difference they make to people's everyday lives – relieving their pain and helping them stay independent. And they're in short supply all over the country.

As members of the family of allied health professionals, healthcare specialists enjoy great pay, regular working hours, varied and interesting work, and lots of ways to specialise and advance as they gain experience.



Do you like the sound of helping people, improving their quality of life and their experience of treatment?

Are you interested in science and health?

Are you good with people?

Do you like a challenge?

Then you'll enjoy a career as an allied health professional.

Learn more about what's involved at iseethedifference.co.uk

You can become an allied health professional with a three-year honours degree.

Two-year postgraduate courses may also be available, if you already have a science degree.

Courses combine academic study with hands-on work. You'll regularly put the things you're learning to the test by helping treat real patients in a working hospital.

Find a course at iseethedifference.co.uk/course-finder

Orthoptics

iseethedifference.co.uk/orthoptics

The job

You'll help both children and adults, and people who have difficulty communicating, with conditions like double vision, eyes that turn, and disorders of the brain that affect vision. Treatment can include eye patches, eye exercises, prisms and glasses.

You'll be based in a hospital – though orthoptists often work in schools and community clinics too – working with the eyecare team, stroke team and special educational needs team. As you gain experience, you'll find lots of opportunities to extend and specialise your role and responsibilities.

Orthoptists diagnose and treat problems that affect how eye structures develop, how the brain controls eye movements, and how the eyes work together.

The conditions

Starting pay:

£23,023–£29,608 a year (NHS Band 5 – starting at the lower end and working your way up)

Pay at higher levels:

Up to £41,373 a year for an experienced orthoptist with a specialist area (Band 7)

£82,000+ a year for an experienced head orthoptist in a big department (Band 7–8d)

Working hours:

Planned around patients' needs, but regular – orthoptists are rarely on call

Podiatry

iseethedifference.co.uk/podiatry

The job

You'll help anyone from babies to older people with conditions like diabetes, arthritis, dermatological and neurological disorders, among many more. Treatment can include preventing and managing problems, relieving pain, treating infections and prescribing medicines.

You'll be based in either a hospital or a community setting, acting as a liaison between GP surgeries, patients' homes, care homes, A&E departments and hospital wards, working with various other health professionals. Podiatrists can have portfolio careers combining NHS, private and academic work. As you gain experience, you'll be able to specialise in areas that interest you, like diabetes, sports injuries, the musculoskeletal system, surgery, or even forensics.

Podiatrists care for the feet, ankles and lower limbs. They are experts on the structure, function and health of these parts of the body.

The conditions

Starting pay:

£23,023–£29,608 a year (NHS Band 5 – starting at the lower end and working your way up)

Pay at higher levels:

Up to £36,644 a year after specialising (Band 6)

Up to £43,041 a year for team leaders and advanced podiatrists (Band 7)

Up to £85,333 a year for consultant podiatrists and specialist registrars in podiatric surgery (Band 8)

Working hours:

Sociable and routine – and working part-time can be an option



**My work/life
balance is sorted.
And I genuinely
love what I do.**

Prosthetics and orthotics

iseethedifference.co.uk/po

The job

As a prosthetist, you'll help people of all ages, from babies to octogenarians, who have been born without a limb or needed an amputation. Treatment can include designing and fitting a custom artificial limb – a prosthesis.

As an orthotist, you'll help people of all ages with conditions like diabetes, arthritis, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, sports injuries and many others. Treatment can include stock and custom-made orthoses like spinal braces, splints, footwear and insoles.

You'll be based in a hospital or rehab centre, possibly travelling around different schools or clinics each day, working with technicians, physiotherapists, nurses, doctors and other health professionals. You could work in the NHS or a private practice. As you gain experience, you could specialise in areas that interest you, like stroke, MS or diabetes, children or veterans; or develop your career into management, public health or research.

Prosthetists and orthotists design, fit, adjust and maintain mechanical devices that attach to patients' bodies to help them move or to treat an issue.

The conditions

Starting pay:

£23,023–£29,608 a year (NHS Band 5 – starting at the lower end and working your way up)

Pay at higher levels:

Up to £43,041 a year after specialising (Band 6–7)

Up to £49,969 a year for a consultant prosthetist or orthotist (Band 8a)

Working hours:

Usually 9 to 5, Monday to Friday



Therapeutic radiography

iseethedifference.co.uk/tr

The job

You'll help all sorts of people with cancer. You'll provide patients with excellent care by planning and accurately delivering the right dose of radiation in the right places, while taking care of the patients, their family and carers.

You'll be based in a hospital, usually in the NHS, working with the oncology team and support services. As you gain experience, you'll be able to specialise in areas that interest you – developing your clinical skills, practising at an advanced level in new roles, working with specific technologies, and getting involved in research, leadership, management and education. You'll develop strong communication skills, because caring for patients is at the heart of the role.

Therapeutic radiographers treat and care for people with cancer, using highly advanced technology to target and destroy cancer cells with radiation.

The conditions

Starting pay:

£23,023–£29,608 a year (NHS Band 5 – starting at the lower end and working your way up)

Pay at higher levels:

Up to £35,577 a year with experience (Band 6)

Up to £41,787 a year for advanced practitioner radiographers (Band 7)

Up to £69,168 a year for a consultant radiographer (Band 8c)

Working hours:

Around 37.5 hours a week, possibly including evening and weekend shifts

I'm living my life to the fullest and helping my patients do the same

I See the Difference is funded by the Office for Students as part of the Strategic Interventions in Health Education Disciplines (SIHED) programme.

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