What is a GP?

GPs are experts in their patients. They provide the first point of contact with the NHS for most people in their communities – there are over 1 million GP consultations in the UK every day! GPs deal with a wide range of medical conditions and will treat patients throughout their lives – GPs are vital to their local community and contribute hugely to keeping the nation healthy.

"Being a GP is a job like no other – we are often the first people our patients regularly turn to for help, often at the most difficult times of their lives, and we build trusting relationships with them over time. That privilege is almost unique in medicine."

PROFESSOR MARTIN MARSHALL,
RCGP CHAIR

1 Design a career to suit you!

- ✓ Develop a flexible career around the needs of your patients and your personal life.
- ✓ Work in a range of practice and community settings and even travel the globe to improve patient care.
- ✓ Work in your favourite industry from sport and politics to business, events and even the military.

2 Change the lives of patients!

- ✓ Diagnose a wide range of complex conditions, both quickly and compassionately as an expert medical generalist.
- ✓ Play the role of a detective as you make accurate diagnoses.
- ✓ Change the lives of your patients as you develop an understanding of the people and diversity in your local community.

3 Thrive as a member of Team GP!

- ✓ Join a profession where teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity are required every day.
- ✓ Work with multi-skilled teams in your community to deliver extensive care for your patients.
- ✓ Help inspire the next generation of doctors as an educator.

4 Shape the future of healthcare!

- ✓ Be empowered to lead improvements in healthcare and be at the forefront as technology evolves.
- ✓ Take on new and exciting roles as care for patients increasingly moves out of hospitals and into the community.
- ✓ Make significant contributions to the care of many millions of patients around the world through research and development.

5 Put patients at the heart of everything you do!

- ✓ Make a difference and ensure your patients receive the best possible care.
- ✓ Treat the whole patient and look after the physical, social and psychological aspects of a patient's wellbeing throughout their lives.
- ✓ See patients in a variety of settings including the privilege of their own home.

Find out more about a career in general practice at **rcgp.org.uk/discovergp**

Royal College of General Practitioners
30 Euston Square
London
NW1 2FB
+44 (0) 20 3188 7400
rcgp.org.uk

facebook.com/rcgp.org
twitter.com/teamgp
instagram.com/royalcollegeofgps

Royal College of General Practitioners is a registered charity in England and Wales (Number 223106) and Scotland (Number SC040430)

"It's an honour and a privilege to have patients lay their lives in front of me and ask for my help. There's nothing quite like it. Put simply, it's the best job in the world."

DR SOPHIA LE MARE, GP

Royal College of General Practitioners

5 FANTASTIC REASONS *to become a GP!*

Royal College of General Practitioners

MY ROUTE TO BECOMING A GP...

Where do I start?

GCSE / Scottish Nationals

All medical schools require different things, as a rough guide they'll ask for a minimum of five GCSE/Scottish National passes at grades A-C (9–4) or equivalent including subjects such as Maths and English.

Top tip!

Medical degrees can have different names, but they tend to fit in to four types:

- Standard Entry Medicine (5 or 6 years)
- Graduate Entry Medicine (4 or 5 years)
- Medicine with a Preliminary Year (6 years)
- Medicine with a Gateway Year (6 years)

For more information visit **medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine**

A level / Further Education / Scottish Highers

Again, each medical school will have it's own entry requirements. Most are looking for the following:

- A*A*A – AAA at A level or AAAAB – AAABB for Scottish Highers.
- Some schools look for specific subjects to be taken such as Chemistry and others offer contextualised admissions which allow entry with lower grades.
- To find out more about each medical school's entry requirements visit: **medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications/entry-requirements**

Top tip!

Medical schools are looking for applicants who have the correct academic aptitude but who are also able to demonstrate the core values and attributes required to study medicine. Find out more at **medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications**

Applying to Medical School

When applying you'll need to:

- Have achieved good exam results throughout school, college or sixth form and have good predicted grades.
- Have developed an understanding of the career through 'relevant experience'.
- Take an admissions test where necessary such as UCAT, BMAT or GAMSAT.
- Usually attend an interview to demonstrate further the non-academic attributes that you have written about in your personal statement.

Top tip! RCGP OBSERVE GP

Most medical schools will ask you to demonstrate what you have gained from your relevant experiences. Remember, it is what you have learnt that is important - not how many hours you have completed. Also, work experience is just one way to gain insights into medicine. The RCGP have created Observe GP, an interactive video platform to help aspiring medics learn about general practice. Find out more, and download a free reflective diary at **rcgp.org.uk/observegp**
Find out more about relevant experience for medical school at **medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/applications**

What next?

University Degree

- Study for between 4-6 years depending on your course and choose from 41 medical schools in the UK!
- While at medical school you'll:
  - ✓ Gain relevant skills and experiences in basic medical sciences and practical clinical tasks.
  - ✓ Carry out wide range of clinical placements under supervision, spending time in GP practices, hospitals and specialist clinics.
  - ✓ Sit exams and carry out a wide range of projects that develop skills such as teamwork and communication.

Foundation Programme

- Having graduated from medical school you'll become a foundation doctor – your first paid job as a doctor! You'll carry out two years of training known as F1 and F2.
- The foundation programme involves six different rotations across a wide range of medical specialties. These rotations enable you to gain valuable experience and become competent in basic clinical skills.
- You'll also be able to further develop non-clinical skills such as communication, teamwork, leadership and research.

Progressing to...

GP Specialty Training

- To become a GP in the UK, you will need to complete a minimum of three years (full time equivalent) specialty training.
- During these three years you'll typically spend 18-months in hospital posts and 18-months in general practice.
- As part of your training you'll carry out a series of assessments, which once passed – allow you to join the GMC's GP Register.
- For more information visit **gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk**

What is the RCGP and how can it help you?

The RCGP is the professional membership body for GPs and is here to help you explore and discover the endless opportunities general practice has to offer. Becoming a GP is incredibly enriching and rewarding, it is a career that is diverse and fulfilling.

Discover a career with endless opportunities at
rcgp.org.uk/discovergp