



# Career of the week

## Cardiologist

Cardiologists are doctors who specialise in working with the heart. Cardiologists work with patients to treat ongoing illnesses or respond to emergency, potentially life-threatening situations. Cardiologists work to prevent illness as well as treat current illnesses.

### What does the job involve?

You'll improve patients' quality of life after a life-changing event such as a heart attack, heart failure or a heart rhythm disorder.

You'll also be involved in understanding diseases, how they progress and can be prevented.

Working as a cardiologist, you'll be involved in an often fast-moving and dynamic field of medicine.

You'll be expected to deliver first-class emergency treatment in life and death situations while being comfortable working at the cutting-edge of new therapies.

Your emotional resilience will also be challenged as your patients will often require palliative care.

### Routes and choices while at school:

You will need at least 5 GCSEs grades 9 to 7 (A\* or A), including English maths and sciences. Other relevant subjects include Triple Science. You will need at least 3 A or A\* passes at A level including Chemistry.



### Skills You'll need:

- 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



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### How to get into this role:

You can get into this job through:

- A university course
- An apprenticeship

### Apprenticeship

From September 2023, you might be able to do a doctor degree apprenticeship which will take around 5 years to complete.

The apprenticeship is recognised by the [General Medical Council](#).

You could then progress to the foundation course of general training before completing the specialist training.

### Entry requirements

Employers will set their own entry requirements.

### University

- You will need a degree in medicine recognised by the [General Medical Council](#) which takes 5 years
- A foundation course of general training which takes 2 years
- Specialist training which can take between 5 to 8 years depending on the speciality
- A medical degree normally takes 5 years to complete. Some courses have the option to include an extra year if you want to study a subject further. This is called an intercalated year.

### Entry requirements

You will need at least 5 GCSEs grades 9 to 7 (A\* or A), including English maths and sciences  
3 A levels, or equivalent, including biology and chemistry

### Volunteering

You can gain valuable caring skills from volunteering in education, charity or social care settings. You could: get advice from the voluntary services co-ordinator at your [local NHS trust](#)  
find volunteering opportunities through the [National Council for Voluntary Organisations \(NCVO\)](#) and [Do IT](#).



### Career path and progression

- With experience you could:
- Apply to senior or consultant roles once you're on the [General Medical Council Specialist Register](#)
- Lead a team, manage a department or work in a private practice
- Work in the [Army](#), [Royal Air Force](#) or [Royal Navy](#) as a doctor or medical officer
- Train medical students or other healthcare professionals
- Move into clinical research

### Rates of Pay

When you get your first paid doctors' job, you can expect to earn around £28,000 per year. When you finish your training, you can earn anywhere between £41,000 and £77,000 per year.

**Consultant Cardiologists earn up to £110,000 per year.**