



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Demographics

AIMS - Ascertaining the career Intentions of UK Medical Students' post-graduation: a cross-sectional survey

Thank you for taking part in the study. Please note that participating in this survey is entirely optional.

In 2010, 83.1% of Foundation Year 2 (F2) doctors went into further training. In 2019, this number was only 34.9%. This represents a significant change in the makeup of doctors in the UK on a backdrop of a wider NHS staffing challenge. AIMS endeavours to understand the factors involved in medical students' decision-making around their future career. Specifically, we are interested in what students' current career plans are, and why they may, or may not choose to pursue specialty training, or a medical career more broadly, in the UK. We are also hoping to understand current views on the prospect of working in the NHS.

All responses will remain confidential. Your email address will only be visible to the study leads and will be deleted from our records once all data has been collected (unless you consent to being followed up at the end of the survey) and there is no need for further communication. You may withdraw from the study at any point by contacting Tomas Ferreira, tf385@cam.ac.uk.

By submitting your answers to the survey, you consent to us collecting this data and acknowledging that anonymised data may be published and used for purposes beyond this study. Ethical approval was granted by the University of Cambridge Research Ethics Committee (PRE.2022.124) on 5 January 2023.

All participants will be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win £300!

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and I consent to participate in this study.

☐ Yes

Email Address

Please enter your institutional email address (ending in 'ac.uk'. We will use this to verify your student status and we may contact you to notify you of a prize win or for clarification of responses). Please ensure there are no spaces at the end of your email.

Age

Gender

Which of the below options best describes your ethnicity?**University****Year of study - Please read description.**

(as of September 2022)

- If you are in your fourth year of study and it is your final year, please select final year (i.e., GEM)
- If you are in your fourth year of study but it is your penultimate year, please select penultimate year.
- If you are currently intercalating, please select your current year of study (e.g., intercalating between 3rd and 4th year on a 5 year course please select Year 4).
- Treat the first year of a GEM course as still equivalent to first year.
- If you are in a "Foundation" or "Gateway" year (also known as Y0), please select Year 1.

- ☐ Year 1
- ☐ Year 2
- ☐ Year 3
- ☐ Year 4 (not penultimate year)
- ☐ Penultimate year
- ☐ Final year

What is your expected graduation year?**Do you have a previous or intercalated degree?**

- ☐ Yes, prior to studying Medicine.
- ☐ Yes, an intercalated degree.
- ☐ Yes, both.
- ☐ Not yet, but intend on intercalating.

- ☐ Not yet, but currently intercalating.
- ☐ No.

What is your student fee status?

- ☐ Home
- ☐ EU
- ☐ International (Non-EU)

Did you, at any point in your education, attend a fee-paying independent school?

E.g., private school.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Intentions

Do you intend to join the NHS Foundation Programme after graduation?

- ☐ Yes - plan to complete F1 & F2
- ☐ Yes - plan to complete F1 & emigrate to practice abroad
- ☐ Yes - plan to complete F1 & leave medicine permanently.
- ☐ No - plan on leaving medicine permanently.
- ☐ No - plan on emigrating
- ☐ No - plan on taking a break or undertaking further study.

What do you intend to do after completing the NHS Foundation Programme?

- ☐ Enter specialty training in the UK
- ☐ Non-training clinical job in the UK, e.g. 'F3 year', JCF or CTF
- ☐ Emigrating to practice medicine abroad (including temporarily)
- ☐ Taking a break or undertaking further study

☐ Leaving medicine permanently

You have indicated your intention to leave medicine permanently. In which industry do you plan to work after leaving medicine? If unsure, please enter N/A"

In which country do you intend to practice?

If you are unsure, please enter N/A.

Reasons for emigrating to practice abroad

In your previous answers, you have indicated your intentions to practice medicine abroad. Please indicate the level of importance of the below factors in your decision making

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not important	Not at all important
Remuneration or pay at junior level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remuneration or pay at consultant level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work-life balance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desire for a life change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of entry into training (competition)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Standard of training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to choose work location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Working conditions of a doctor in the NHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uncertainty about which specialty to pursue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

You have indicated that you intend to emigrate to practice medicine, do you intend on returning to the UK?

☐ Yes - after a few years

☐ Yes - after I complete my training

☐ No

Reasons for leaving medicine permanently

In your previous answers, you have indicated your intentions to leave medicine permanently. Please indicate the level of importance of the below factors in your decision making.

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not important	Not at all important
Remuneration or pay at junior level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remuneration or pay at consultant level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work-life balance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desire for a life change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to choose work location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working conditions of a doctor in the NHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stress levels associated with profession	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Burnout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reasons for not entering specialty training immediately after F2

In your previous answers, you have indicated your intentions to not enter specialty training immediately after completing your F2 year. Please indicate the level of importance of the below factors in your decision making.

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not important	Not at all important
Saving money or greater earning potential.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Undertaking further study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Portfolio building for applications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Travel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experiencing another healthcare system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Starting a family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reapplying for specialty programme.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to choose work location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Burnout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uncertainty about which specialty to pursue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reasons for not entering foundation training immediately after graduation

In your previous answers, you have indicated your intentions to not enter foundation training immediately after graduation. Please indicate the level of importance of the below factors in your decision making.

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Not important	Not at all important
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Undertaking further study	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Travel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Experiencing another healthcare system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Starting a family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to choose work location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Burnout	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Views on a career in the NHS

For each of the points below, how would you describe your level of satisfaction regarding their current status in the NHS?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied	Not satisfied	Not at all satisfied
Remuneration or pay at junior level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Remuneration or pay at consultant level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work-life balance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to choose work location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of entry into training (competition)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Standard of training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Working conditions of a doctor in the NHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exposure to desired specialty during foundation programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Theatre time during foundation programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Cost of training (i.e., mandatory exams, courses, memberships)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of time to decide on a specialty	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pension Tax rules as a consultant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall satisfaction with the prospect of working in the NHS	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are you certain about which specialty you wish to pursue?

- ☐ Very certain
- ☐ Somewhat certain
- ☐ Neither certain nor uncertain
- ☐ Somewhat uncertain
- ☐ Very uncertain

Which specialty (or specialties) most interest you?

Select **up to** a maximum of 3 options (if you are certain, please select only one)

- ☐ Acute internal medicine
- ☐ Allergy
- ☐ Anaesthetics
- ☐ Audio vestibular medicine
- ☐ Cardio-thoracic surgery
- ☐ Cardiology
- ☐ Clinical genetics
- ☐ Clinical neurophysiology
- ☐ Clinical oncology
- ☐ Community sexual and reproductive health
- ☐ Dermatology
- ☐ Emergency medicine
- ☐ Endocrinology and diabetes mellitus
- ☐ Gastro-enterology
- ☐ General practice
- ☐ General surgery

- ☐ Genito-urinary medicine
- ☐ Geriatric medicine
- ☐ Haematology
- ☐ Histopathology
- ☐ Immunology
- ☐ Infectious diseases
- ☐ Intensive care medicine
- ☐ Medical microbiology
- ☐ Medical oncology
- ☐ Neurology
- ☐ Neurosurgery
- ☐ Nuclear medicine
- ☐ Obstetrics and gynaecology
- ☐ Occupational medicine
- ☐ Ophthalmology
- ☐ Oral and maxillo-facial surgery
- ☐ Otolaryngology (ENT)
- ☐ Paediatric surgery
- ☐ Paediatrics
- ☐ Palliative medicine
- ☐ Pathology
- ☐ Plastic surgery
- ☐ Psychiatry
- ☐ Public health medicine
- ☐ Radiology
- ☐ Rehabilitation medicine
- ☐ Renal medicine
- ☐ Respiratory medicine
- ☐ Rheumatology
- ☐ Sport and exercise medicine
- ☐ Trauma and orthopaedic surgery
- ☐ Tropical medicine
- ☐ Urology
- ☐ Vascular surgery

What steps could be taken to improve the prospect of working in the NHS?

(Optional)

Do you consent to being contacted by us for potential follow-up studies regarding your career intentions?

We will store your email address to contact you in the future.

☐ Yes

☐ No

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