

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



Nephrologist

Area of HCS: Medicine

Pay Scale: £38k - £103k

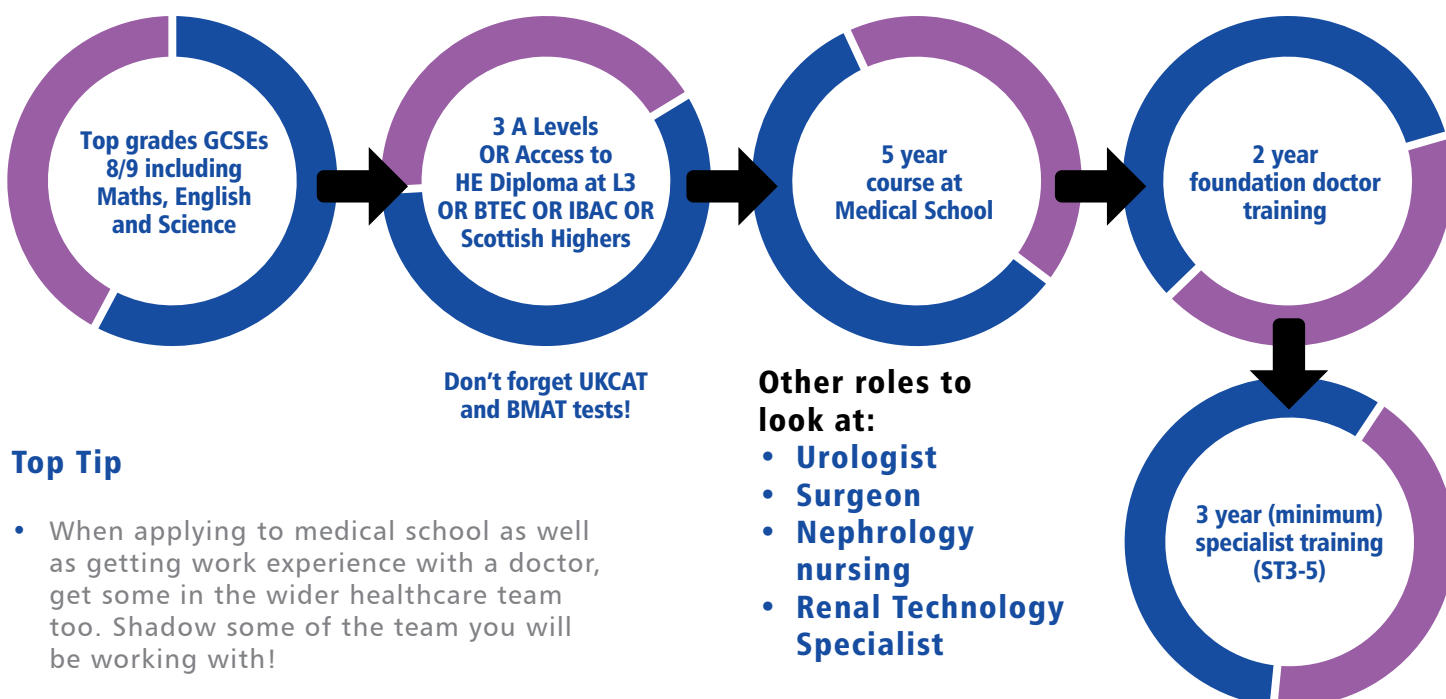
AMAZING FACT

- Every 30 minutes your kidneys filter all the blood in your body, removing waste. And they will do that 50 times a day, filtering a whopping 1500 L of blood every 24 hours!!!!

A Nephrologist is someone who diagnoses and treats people with diseases of the kidney. They specialise in Renal Medicine, renal is just a word that refers to kidneys. If you become a nephrologist you'll work with a large variety of patients such as people suffering from autoimmune diseases like lupus, or other diseases like diabetes and hypertension. You'll also be treating people with acute kidney injuries, alongside end stage kidney failure and kidney transplant. This is a great job for people who like to get to know their patients, you could be working with someone for 10-20 years as they progress from kidney disease to requiring a transplant and then after care.

You'll be based in a renal unit within a general hospital or teaching hospital. Transplants only take place at a university teaching hospital as surgeons and specialists teams are needed. You will assist with dialysis units at smaller cottage hospitals. You'll have a highly varied working life but you'll be required to work weekdays, weekends and evening as well as being on call according to a rota pattern. Some of your roles will include renal biopsies (taking a bit of the kidney to have a look at) as well as teaching and research working with a multidisciplinary team.

What to do to get into this career...



AMAZING FACT 2:

- Your body is extremely clever and it doesn't like to get you to do unnecessary activities, so it waits until your kidneys have filled your bladder up to the half way point before you get a signal to go to the loo. Nifty!



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