

Training

Entry into medicine is highly competitive. Check the institution websites for details of entry requirements. Maths with calculus and/or statistics, chemistry, physics, biology and English would be useful.

To become a medical doctor you must first complete the Health Science First Year (HSFY) at University of Otago, or the first year of either the Bachelor of Health Sciences or Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science at University of Auckland. During your first year, you will apply for admission into the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) degree programme.

Selection into the MBChB programme is dependent upon:

- marks for the first year
- the results of an aptitude test called University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT).
- an interview

Places are limited, but there are special quotas for Maori and Pacific Island students and students of New Zealand rural origin.

It takes five years to complete an MBChB. This is followed by several years as a supervised junior doctor in a hospital, then another five to seven years of specialist training and examinations to become a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Personal Qualities

Surgeons need to:

- be precise and careful
- be skilled at problem-solving
- be able to work well under pressure
- have an eye for detail
- have excellent hand-eye co-ordination
- be disciplined, motivated, committed
- have good eyesight



Information collated by NZIRH
Where to go for more information:

www.kiwihealthjobs.com

www.careers.govt.nz

www.kiaorahauora.org.nz

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Surgeon



Surgery

Surgery involves ...

consulting with patients, then performing an operation to treat disease and/or injuries.

Surgeons are involved in

- diagnosis of ailments
- operating on patients
- follow-up care of patients
- research
- teaching medical students

Surgery is listed as one of the health careers in New Zealand where there is a skill shortage.

Surgeons can work in a number of specialist areas such as:

- Orthopaedic surgery
- Plastic and reconstructive surgery
- Cardio-thoracic surgery
- Neurological surgery
- Oral surgery
- Vascular surgery
- Colon rectal surgery
- Opthamologic surgery
- General surgery
- Ear, nose, throat surgery

What do they do?

Surgeons may do some or all of the following:

- examine and diagnose the ailment and decide on the treatment required by a patient
- operate on patients
- give post-operative care instructions and monitor the patient's recovery
- teach and support medical students and/or junior doctors
- research work



Where do surgeons work?

Surgery work in private rooms or operating theatres of hospitals.

Pros and cons

- the satisfaction of helping people
- working with people
- well-paid
- in private practice, you are your own boss
- long and irregular hours
- the work can be stressful, as they may have seriously ill or injured patients
- not all operations are successful

