**Doctor**

**The process to become a doctor is lengthy, and involves many years of theoretical and practical study. In order to be eligible to apply for medical school, you will need good GCSEs and A-levels in all subjects, especially science. You will also need a high level of maths and English. Once you’ve attained the required grades, you can apply to attend one of the numerous medical schools in the UK. The typical length of a medical degree is five years, which includes lots of time spent in medical settings as well as theoretical study and exams. Once you have passed your degree and are a qualified doctor, you will need to complete a ‘foundation programme’ in which you will learn and be assessed whilst working as an NHS doctor in a series of different placements covering varying aspects of medicine.**

**The typical salary for a doctor at this stage is around £27,500, up to £32,000. Once you’ve completed this stage, you should have a better idea of which area of medicine you’d like to go into, and can either continue training to become a GP, or enter medical specialty training in areas such as neurology or anaesthetics. When you’re learning your speciality in hospital, there are lots of different pay grades you will go through as you advance. Payment for a Speciality Registrar, a type of senior hospital doctor, is around £40,000 to £50,000. Once you have completed all of your training over a number of years, you can become a Consultant, which often pays around £100,000. Should you wish to become a GP, you can expect to earn around £60,000.**



**Paramedic**

**In order to become a paramedic, you will need at least five GCSEs at grade A-C, including English, maths and science. You’ll also need two or three A-levels, including a science subject, or an equivalent BTEC, HND, HNC or NVQ. You might also be expected to have some type of experience in healthcare or first aid, which could be on a voluntary basis. After this, you will need to apply to the ambulance service you think you would like to work for, so that you can begin training as a student paramedic. Employers will also be looking for an excellent level of physical fitness, as well as at least two years’ driving experience. Before you are accepted into the programme, you will likely have to complete a number of problem-solving tests to check your suitability.**

**Recently, a degree apprenticeship standard in paramedic science has been approved, which is available at various different universities, and is an alternative route into the profession. Once you’re working as a paramedic, you’ll have numerous different duties, including driving patients in the ambulance and administering first aid, including life-saving medical care. When you start as a paramedic, you’ll likely be earning around £25,000, however, this pay will go up as you gain more experience, with senior paramedics and team leaders earning up to £35,000.**



**Dietician**

**Dieticians are experts who specialise in the science of nutrition. They assess and develop nutritional care plans for those who need it, in order to keep them healthy and improve their quality of life. As a dietician, you might find yourself working with a whole range of patients, such as people suffering from eating disorders, or patients who require a tailored nutritional diet as part of a medical condition such as Celiac disease. In order to become a dietician, you will need GCSEs in maths, English and science at grade C or above, and also must take A-levels (or the equivalent) in biology and chemistry. You will then need to undertake a dietetic course at university, which will involve both academic study and practical experience working with patients who need help to plan and manage their diets.**

**After you’ve qualified as a dietician, you may decide to work for the NHS, where you might see patients that have been referred to you through their GPs, or who need to see a dietician during a stay in hospital. If you choose to work in the NHS, there are various pay grades which you will go through depending on your level of experience. Typically, a dietician can expect to earn between £23,000 and £36,000. However, there are other opportunities for dieticians outside of the health service - for instance, you might choose to work in education, the food service industry, or in sports nutrition. The salary paid will depend on your individual employer, but are likely to be very competitive as dieticians offer a highly specialised skill-set.**



**Forensic Computer Analyst**

**Digital forensics is a new and exciting branch of the criminal justice system. Police will call upon a computer forensics expert if they need help to access files and data from a computer or mobile device belonging to a person who is suspected of serious crimes. A forensic computer analyst will have a detailed understanding of firewalls, networks, VPNs, encryption, and any number of devices a person might employ to hide their digital activities. Private companies might also employ the services of a forensic computer analyst, in order to detect and combat fraud. In order to become qualified, you will need to have good GCSEs in English, maths and science, as well as two to three A-levels in science-related fields.**

**There is no set way to achieve this career, and you can either go to university directly to study computer forensics, or you can look for an apprenticeship where you can learn on the job from someone with experience. You could also start work as an IT support technician or network engineer, and work your way up by undertaking training on the job. There are a couple of bodies which offer certified industry training, such as Chartered Institute for IT and the Chartered Institute of Information Security. At the beginning of your career, you’ll likely find that your salary will be around £20,000, however, experts in this field are extremely valuable and sought-after, so with experience your salary could rise to well above £70,000.**



**Software developer**

**Software developers are responsible for designing, building, and testing new computer programmes. This might include working with cloud or mobile applications, information databases, or improving existing software in order to meet the needs of different projects and clients. To become a software developer, you will normally need at least five GCSEs at A-C including maths, English and science, along with three related A-levels such as maths, physics or computing, or an equivalent level 3 qualification. After this, you will normally need to complete a foundation degree, a NHD or a regular degree in a subject such as software development, software engineering or computer science.**

**However, it’s also possible to become a software developer by gaining relevant A-levels or another equivalent qualification, and undertaking an apprenticeship where you will learn from others who are experienced in the field, or by finding a job which will offer training as you work. Because software development is still a fairly new field, there’s no set framework you have to follow to make it into the profession. Depending on your chosen career route, you could be self-employed, or work for a large company, depending on your preference. The average salary for software developers is around £28,000 depending upon your location. With experience and a senior position, you could earn in excess of £60,000.**



**Journalist**

**Becoming a journalist is an excellent career for anyone who enjoys writing, particularly factual storytelling. There are also lots of different routes into the profession. If you think you’d like to become a journalist, one of the best things you can do it get lots of experience writing - contribute to online blogs and magazines, or volunteer for your student newspaper. Getting good GCSEs in english and other subjects is very advantageous, as is studying subjects such as english and Communication Studies at A-level or equivalent. After this, you might choose to pursue a journalism degree. During your degree, you’ll get lots of practical writing experience, as well as study lots of theory to help develop your analytical skills. However, studying a subject you’re very interested in can work just as well - for instance, you might have a passion for writing about science, in which case, studying biology or chemistry at degree level could be very helpful.**

**In order to work as a reporter for a newspaper or broadcaster, you will normally be expected to have a journalism degree. However, lifestyle and business magazines tend to employ graduates from a range of subjects. If going to university isn’t for you, there are also various apprenticeships available where you can learn on the job, such as the Digital Journalism Apprenticeship at the BBC. Salaries for journalists vary widely depending upon location and experience, with trainee reporters’ salaries likely to start at around £18,000. The average salary for a newspaper journalist is £22,500, however, journalists with national newspapers can earn around £50,000 per year.**



**Camera Operator**

**Camera Operators are people who record images for TV programmes, films, documentaries, adverts, and more. They are generally people who have a love of film or TV, or just enjoy the process of visual storytelling. Most camera operators work for TV, film and production companies, and lots are self-employed. In general, employers will be more interested in your hands-on experience, so it’s a great idea to get as much experience as you can, even if you’re working on projects on an unpaid basis. Some people who aspire to be camera operators will go to university or college to gain a qualification in film production or a similar course, during which you will receive lots of experience in using different equipment such as cameras, lenses and lighting, as well as studying film theory to help develop your creative techniques. Instead of an academic course, some people choose to get an apprenticeship with a production company, where they can start to learn the basics and work their way up to operating camera equipment and organising shoots.**

**The rate of pay for a camera operator will vary greatly depending upon whether you work for a company or TV studio, or work for yourself using your own equipment. Because camera operators tend to move between jobs, the salary is quoted on an hourly or daily basis, depending upon what the project entails. Most camera operators will earn between £300-600 per day, although the work may not always be consistent. In general, a freelance camera operator might expect to earn between £40,000 - £60,000 per year.**



**Teacher**

**Teachers are responsible for the education of children of all ages, as well as young adults. Being a teacher is a demanding but rewarding job, and perfect for someone keen to make a difference in the lives of young people. If you know that you want to become a teacher, you’ll need five GCSEs at grades A\*-C or equivalent, including English, Maths, and possibly also a science subject. After you’ve completed your GCSEs, there are a few different ways to gain QTS (Qualified Teacher Status). You could study for a Bachelor of Education, or study a different subject of your choosing with QTS, which means you will study teaching alongside your regular subject. You can also complete an unrelated degree and go on to gain a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate of Education). There are also schemes for university graduates available which allow you to work as a teacher whilst you train, so that you can earn a wage as you learn. Teachers are known to work long hours, including lesson planning which is often done in a teacher’s own time.**

**However, teachers also enjoy summer holidays when the children are off school. As a newly qualified teacher, your pay will vary depending upon your location, however, the average salary is around £25,000. As you gain experience in the profession, you will progress through different pay grades, and your salary will increase as you take on more responsibilities and roles within the school. Leading practitioners will earn around £40,000, and head teachers may earn over £100,000.**



**Actor**

**Actors bring roles to life in television and films, and it is a job which requires dedication, hard work and natural talent. It is also a very competitive industry, and one in which setbacks and rejection are common. There is no one way to become an actor, but, should you have this aspiration, the best thing you can do is practice your craft whenever and wherever you can. Look for local theatre productions, apply for parts in advertisements or as an extra - this will all go towards a showreel which will show future employers the diversity of your skills. It will likely be useful to study both drama and English literature at GCSE, to gain a better understanding of artistic expression, which will also help to secure a route into higher education. Should you go on to study at A-level, drama and theatre studies are highly recommended courses, which will help you get used to performing in front of an audience, as well as give you a chance to be creative and try out your own material.**

**A BTEC in performing arts will also give you similar skills and experience. If you wish to develop your skills further, there are several excellent drama schools in the UK such as the London Academy of Performing Arts, although entry into these institutions is highly sought after. Most universities offer drama and theatre courses as well, where you will develop the necessary skills to try to make it as an actor. Naturally, the salary of actors varies dramatically depending upon how much work they are able to secure, and whether they are working in TV, film, theatre, or another area.**



**Police Officer**

**A police officer is responsible for maintaining the peace, as well as investigating criminal activity, making arrests and aiding in criminal prosecutions. In order to become a police officer, you will need to be quite emotionally resilient, as well as physically fit. You could be based at a police station, patrolling the streets, on a bicycle, or in a patrol car. In order to apply for training, you’ll need at least one A-level or an equivalent qualification, or to have volunteered as a special constable or PCSO for at least 18 months. After you’ve applied, you will need to attend an interview at an assessment centre, pass medical and fitness tests as well as criminal background checks.**

**If you are successful, you will complete a two year probationary period before being confirmed at the rank of constable - all of this training helps to contribute towards passing your Diploma in Policing. From there, you will make your way through the defined rank structure to become a sergeant or chief inspector, etc. You can also apply to work in specialist areas such as traffic or dog handling, depending upon your skills and interests. You can also take a more structured and academic route into the profession by doing a three year degree in professional policing, after which you will be able to become a police constable with training time required. You can also complete a degree in an unrelated subject before following a work-based programme to become a police officer. The starting salary for a police constable is around £20,000, but this will rise significantly with every promotion you receive, with chief inspectors earning around £56,000 per year.**



**Veterinary nurse**

**Veterinary nurses assist in the care of animals when they are ill, injured or require a medical procedure or operation. They work together with other members of a veterinary team, providing expert and specialised care for pets, livestock or zoo animals. To be a veterinary nurse, it’s essential to have great communication skills, and work well within a team. In order to start your higher education in this field, you’ll need five GCSEs at grade C or above including English, maths and science. Most colleges and universities will also require A-levels in biology and chemistry.**

**After that, you must complete a qualification accredited by RCVS, such as a foundation or bachelor’s degree in veterinary nursing. After you’ve passed your exams, you’ll need to complete a minimum of 60 full time weeks of practical experience at an RCVS registered training practice. After becoming fully qualified, most nurses are employed by veterinary practices, or specialist facilities providing only emergency care or referral cases. Some also choose to work at animal rescue centres, or for charity organisations. The starting salary for veterinary nurses is normally around £20,000, but can rise to around £28,000 with further qualifications and experience.**



**Animal physiotherapist**

**An animal physiotherapist works to restore and maintain the bodily function, independence and mobility of animals, helping them to recover from surgery or to help manage joint or spinal problems. Most animal physiotherapists are self-employed, but will still work as part of a larger team of veterinary specialists helping to devise and deliver a care plan for animals dependent upon their specific needs, working closely with their owners or carers. The qualifications you’ll require to start training will vary by institution, but generally you’ll need to have at least 5 GCSEs at C grade or above, including maths, English and science. After this, you’ll need to attain three a-levels in science-based subjects including biology, normally at A or B level.**

**At university, you can either complete a degree in human physiotherapy followed by postgraduate training in veterinary physiotherapy, complete a degree in veterinary physiotherapy, or a postgraduate-level Advanced Certificate in Veterinary Physiotherapy. Once you’re qualified and ready to start your own animal physiotherapy business, you can charge per appointment. Appointments normally last around an hour and cost between £25-£70, depending on the complexity of the issue being treated. Newly qualified therapists working full-time can expect to earn around £25,000, but with greater responsibilities and experience this can rise to around £40,000.**



**Solicitor**

**Solicitors work with clients to advise them about different aspects of the law. Lots of solicitors have different specialities, such as property purchases, divorces, wills, criminal proceedings or lawsuits. Solicitors can work in a range of places, but normally work either in private practice, working on behalf of clients, or commercial practice, working on behalf of a company. Legal work is challenging, competitive, and well-paid, so you’ll be expected to gain very good grades before entering into higher education. Universities will specify the exact grades they require, but you will generally need to have a number of GCSEs including maths, English and science at grade C or above. There are normally no essential subjects that you must take at A-level, but it could be advantageous to study subjects such as history, geography, science or modern languages.**

**In order to study law at university, you will likely have to take the National Admissions Test for Law (LNAT), which assesses your suitability for the course. To become qualified as a solicitor, you will need to complete an undergraduate degree that is approved by the Solicitors Regulation Authority or the Bar Standards Board. Some people also choose to complete an undergraduate degree in a different subject, before taking a law conversion course known as the GDL. Because law is such a competitive field, gaining plenty of work experience at all stages of your training and education is vital. Starting salaries for newly qualified solicitors vary depending upon location and the size of company you’re working for, but you can generally expect to earn around £30,000. With more responsibilities and experience, this will likely rise to around £60,000, with partners of legal firms earning more than £100,000 per year.**



**Makeup Artist**

**Makeup artists (MUAs) are creative and artistic people who enhance the beauty and physical attributes of others, sometimes for special occasions such as weddings, or to prepare actors and presenters for TV and film. Some makeup artists also specialise in special effects, using cosmetics and prosthetics to recreate the appearance of burns, cuts, and deformities, etc. Most makeup artists are self-employed, and may find themselves working on a variety of different projects throughout their careers. If you aspire to become a makeup artist, the very best thing you can do is to practice as much as possible, both on yourself and others. As you create looks that you like, you should take pictures to build your portfolio, and consider setting up a social media page to showcase your skills. Although makeup artists don’t need any particular GCSEs or A-levels, in order to become qualified in the industry and to gain an understanding of hygiene and best practice, you could attend a creative arts school or beauty academy to gain a BTEC, a City and Guilds Diploma or a Makeup Standards Authority (MASA) diploma.**

**After you’ve completed one of these courses, you can hone your skills further in specific areas such as special effects by completing specialist courses. If you want to attend university, there are a few universities in the UK which offer relevant courses, such as the London College of Fashion and Arts University Bournemouth. Once you’re qualified, how much you earn will vary depending on what kind of work you’re doing, and whether or not you’ve built up a reputation. For special occasion makeup, most artists will charge around £60-£130. How much you earn will depend on how many clients you can get, but the average salary of a makeup artist in the UK is around £18,000. If you’re able to work in film and TV and have sought after skills, you could potentially earn much more.**



**Graphic designer**

**If you’ve a natural flair for art and design as well as a good understanding of computers, graphic design could be the ideal career for you. Graphic designers create visual concepts using computer software such as InDesign or Photoshop to communicate ideas to consumers for the purpose of advertising or informing. You might be working on magazines, product packaging, websites, or other types of visual branding. Although you don’t necessarily need any formal qualifications to become a graphic designer, certain courses can help to grow your skills and technical expertise. Graphic designers often have a diploma or degree in subjects such as graphic design, illustration, fine art or product design.**

**In order to access such courses, many students complete a foundation course in art and design, which usually takes around two years. This is also a great way to build your portfolio, so that you can show employers your skills. If you want to complete a university degree or BTEC national diploma, you’ll likely need four GCSEs at grade C or above, as well as at least one A-level in an art or design subject. Requirements will depend upon the type of qualification you pursue, and the institution you choose to attend. If the academic route isn’t for you, you might be able to find a graphic design apprenticeship, where you can learn on the job. The average starting pay for graphic designers is around £20,000, however, with further training and experience, you could earn up to £50,000.**

