

Would you like to  
live and work in  
**England?**



The NHS is looking for GPs to work in the area of  
**NORTH EAST ENGLAND**

# INTRODUCTION

The National Health Service in England is running an international recruitment campaign for family doctors. In England these are called General Practitioners or GPs. We plan to recruit around 2,000 GPs from overseas by 2020. They will work alongside GPs we train in England to develop an exciting range of health services away from hospitals and in local community settings.

This brochure explains the importance of GPs in providing healthcare to our population. It tells you about the application process and what to expect when you apply. We are recruiting GPs for many areas across England. This brochure gives you an idea of the benefits and opportunities available to you if you chose to work in **North East England**.

## WHY WORK AS A GP IN ENGLAND?

GPs in England are the foundation of the NHS. They are usually the first person a patient turns to for help and they deal with a whole range of health problems. They are general experts in the whole field of medicine for adults and children. They manage the healthcare of all their patients, including acute illness, long term conditions and mental health problems.

GPs usually work in practices, often leading teams which include nurses, healthcare assistants, practice managers, receptionists and other staff. Practices also work closely with other healthcare professionals, such as health visitors, midwives, pharmacists, physiotherapists, mental health services and social care services.

GPs provide continuing medical care for patients in the community or they will refer patients to hospital clinics for further assessment or treatment by specialists. Nine out of 10 NHS patients are seen in English general practice, and nearly nine out of 10 patients rate their experience of their GP practice as good. Because GPs often lead the continuing development of the NHS in England, we are investing an additional £2.4bn a year into general practice by 2021. The money is being used to recruit more doctors and other healthcare professionals, improve buildings and extend the use of information technology so general practice can offer more and better services to meet people's needs.

Any GP recruited under the international recruitment programme and working in the UK before 29 March 2019 will be able to stay and enjoy the same rights and benefits as now and qualifications of EU doctors will continue to be recognised if they were obtained before 29 March 2019. Recruitment will go beyond March 2019 and while we do not know details of a future immigration system yet, we will make clear how it applies to this programme as soon as possible.

Many GPs choose to work in England because of the attractive salaries and benefits. But the work offers much more: the chance to extend your clinical experience as part of a team of 1.3 million NHS employees, all of whom are proud to work for a 'national treasure' and many of whom have come to England from across the globe.

# GENERAL PRACTICE AND YOU

- If you choose to apply to work as a GP in **North East England** you will be supported with dedicated training programmes, help with meeting language requirements and in meeting the standards of the national Induction and Refresher (I&R) Scheme.
- You will have an opportunity to meet with staff from the recruiting practices and to learn more about them and the local areas. This will help you and the practices decide if this is the best place for you to live and work.
- Practices involved in this recruitment scheme will be offering attractive and competitive salaries.
- You and your family will be offered help to relocate to the area and continued support while you settle into your new community.

## THE CANDIDATE PROCESS

If you apply to be a GP in England this is the application process you will follow:

### STEP 1

An initial conversation in your own country with the recruitment agency for the area you are interested in working in and some background checks (including police checks).

### STEP 2

You will be asked to take an English test organised by the recruitment agency. The agency will use the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or the Occupational English Test (medicine version) proficiency test for people wishing to study or work in English speaking countries.

### STEP 3

You will have an interview in your own country by Skype. You start your registration with the General Medical Council (GMC). The GMC is the organisation which sets standards for doctors in the United Kingdom. You need to be registered with the GMC and be on the GMC's GP Register to work as a GP in England. You will be invited to complete a self-assessment to help identify any training needs.

### STEP 4

You visit your chosen area to find out more about where you will be working and to meet other international GPs. You will have a second interview and an assessment of your learning needs.

### STEP 5

Once you pass your second interview you will be able to join the programme. You will be allocated to a GP practice within the region.

### STEP 6

You will be provided with a minimum of three months of training and observation in your employing practice to prepare you for the I&R assessments and improve your English language skills. You will then spend a minimum of six months treating patients with supervision and support from a senior GP at your practice.

# THE NHS OFFERS A

# COMPETITIVE PAY PACKAGE FOR GPs

Once you have gained entry to the National Medical Performers List without conditions you can expect to earn a salary of between £68,000 and £72,000 per year. This salary is the same across all parts of the NHS in England excluding London where you will receive additional funds to help with the increased living costs there, known as London weighting.

Alongside your salary there are many other financial benefits including paid maternity and paternity leave, parental and carers leave.

## THE NHS IN ENGLAND

The National Health Service was founded in 1948, based on the principle that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth.

With the exception of some charges, such as prescriptions, optical services and dental services, the NHS in England remains free at the point of use for all UK residents.

In 2014, the Commonwealth Fund declared that in comparison with the healthcare systems of 10 other countries (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the US) the NHS was the most impressive overall. The NHS was rated as the best system for its efficiency, safety, effectiveness, co-ordination and patient-centred care.

The NHS covers

**54.3M PEOPLE**

in England



It deals with more than

**1M PATIENTS**

every 36 hours



The NHS employs

**1.2M PEOPLE**



And has more than

**40,500 GPs**





LIVING IN...

# NORTH EAST ENGLAND



Kilometres of sandy beaches, dotted with romantic castles and popular seaside settlements

# HEALTH SERVICES IN NORTH EAST ENGLAND

The North East has 10 hospital trusts, 352 GP practices and a range of other mental health and community services.

The North East is one of the most exciting, friendly and scenic places to live and work in England. Whether you want city, coastal or rural living, the region has it all.

With affordable house prices, low transport costs and commuting times, excellent childcare facilities, and world-class culture, cuisine and entertainment, the North East is a wonderful place to live.

**Durham City** is steeped in history with cobbled streets, a beautiful cathedral and castle (UNESCO World Heritage site) and a world top-100 university.

**Newcastle upon Tyne** is a city rich in retail, culture and entertainment built on a proud industrial heritage. Set on the River Tyne, former factories and warehouses have been transformed into galleries, museums, bars and entertainment venues.

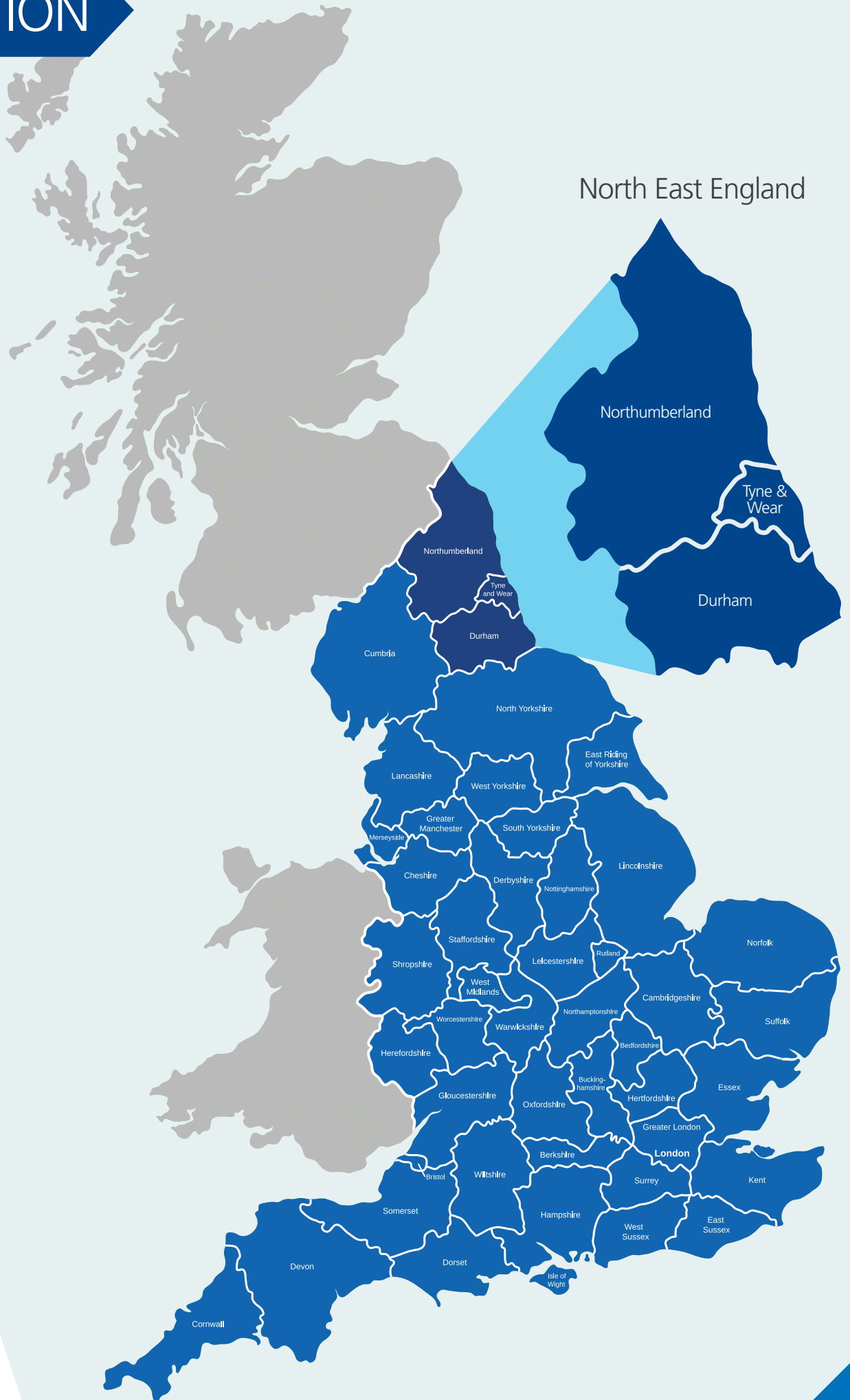
**Gateshead** is joined by seven bridges across the Tyne to Newcastle and is home to the Sage Gateshead Concert Hall and Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

**Sunderland**, the city by the sea, combines city living with the benefit of long, sweeping beaches and artisan cafés on the doorstep.

**Tees Valley, South and North Tyneside, and Northumberland** all offer the benefits of town and city living with beautiful countryside on the doorstep.

The North East coast is a major tourist attraction. In Northumberland, miles of sandy beaches, from Blyth to Berwick-upon-Tweed, are dotted with romantic castles and popular seaside settlements. There is also the Durham Heritage Coast, and Tynemouth, which is a centre for surfing.

# LOCATION





## NOT TO BE MISSED

- Hadrian's Wall is a World Heritage Site stretching across dramatic countryside from the North East coast to the borders of Scotland.
- The Angel of the North - a steel sculpture of an angel with a wingspan of 54 metres.
- Lumiere festival, Durham, is the UK's largest light festival - artists illuminate the city in delightful and unexpected ways.
- Northumberland National Park covers an area of more than 1,000 square kilometres, between the Scottish border in the north to just south of Hadrian's Wall.
- Sunderland International Airshow - the biggest free event of its kind in Europe.
- Beamish is a world-famous open-air museum telling the story of life in North East England during the 1820s, 1900s and 1940s.
- Kynren is a spectacular outdoor live action show 'an Epic Tale of England' performed by a cast and crew of 1,000.

## CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

The region offers a diverse mix of culture and entertainment, and is renowned for its vibrant nightlife and bars, clubs and pubs providing everything you need for a great night out.

Theatres such as the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, the Empire, Sunderland, and the Gala, Durham, attract Broadway shows. The Sage Gateshead and Metro Radio Arena are major music venues.

Arts centres in Hexham, Alnwick and Berwick in Northumberland, and galleries such as the Baltic and Laing Art Gallery (Newcastle), Mima (Middlesbrough), the Glass Centre (Sunderland) and the Customs House (South Shields) are popular with visitors and residents.

The region is also home to child-friendly museums such as Beamish, Bowes, Discovery, Preston Hall Park and Museum, and the Centre for Life.

Popular family days out and visitor attractions include the Garden and Castle in Alnwick, Kielder Water and observatory, Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books in Newcastle, the Durham University Botanic Garden and magnificent National Trust stately homes and gardens.

Local festivals include the Newcastle and Middlesbrough Melas featuring contemporary and traditional Asian music and dance, the ¡VAMOS! Festival celebrating Latin American culture, the Festival of Thrift in Redcar and the Stockton International Riverside, Evolution and Lindisfarne Festivals.





## EDUCATION

Thousands of students come to the region to study at Durham, Newcastle, Northumberland, Teesside and Sunderland universities.

North East schools include community and voluntary controlled schools, academy, voluntary aided and free schools.

Specialist colleges also provide education, offering everything from academic qualifications to arts, cookery and construction courses.

## FOOD AND DRINK

The North East's food and drink culture is thriving. Seafood and fish are regional specialities.

In the cities, food lovers can find everything from modern British food with a twist to Indian, Thai and Italian restaurants, along with a growing street food culture and an incredible variety of cafés, bars and cosy pubs. Food and drink festivals such as Saltburn and EAT! Newcastle Gateshead are booming.

## HOUSING

The North East is one of the most affordable places to live in the UK, offering a range of excellent housing and locations. This includes modern apartments in the cities, period homes in the countryside, and seaside houses. Housing in the region is more affordable compared with the south of England - the average cost of a detached home in England is £394,000; in the North East it is £286,000.





## SHOPPING

The region boasts one of Europe's largest shopping centres, the Metrocentre in Gateshead, which has more than 370 stores, a cinema complex and a food village.

The North East offers diverse independent shops, food markets and market towns that are treasure troves for antiques, country stores, farmers' markets and specialist shops.

## SPORT

The North East is home to famous football clubs including Newcastle United, Middlesbrough and Sunderland. It also boasts the Newcastle Falcons Rugby team, Durham County Cricket Club and national league ice hockey and basketball clubs.

The coastline provides opportunities for sailing and surfing, and the area has a large network of cycle trails and excellent equestrian facilities and racecourses.

Athletics is very popular – there are athletic clubs all over the region and the International Stadium at Gateshead hosts major competitions. The North East is also home to the world's largest half marathon, The Great North Run.



## TRANSPORT

With great transport links and infrastructure, living in the North East means you are never far from what you need. Commuting times are shorter and transport and parking costs cheaper than most other areas of the UK.

### AIRPORTS

There are two major airports in the North East: Newcastle International and Durham Tees Valley, providing daily flights within the UK, to Europe and further afield.

### PORTS

The International Passenger Ferry at North Shields has passenger and car ferries to Holland and Scandinavia.

### ROADS

The North East has an excellent road infrastructure benefiting from some of the least busy roads in the UK.

### RAIL

There are three major train stations: Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham. These connect the region to London, Birmingham, Manchester and Scotland. Daily direct train services from Newcastle, Sunderland and Durham to London take less than 3 hours.

### METRO

The Tyne and Wear Metro is the largest underground train system in the UK outside of London, with more over 60 stations serving Newcastle, Gateshead, South Tyneside, North Tyneside and Sunderland.

## WEATHER

July and August are the warmest months, with daily maximum temperatures ranging from about 21.5°C to less than 17°C. January is usually the coldest month, with daily minimum temperatures varying from below -0.5°C over the highest ground to about 2°C along the coast.

## MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about our international recruitment programme or about living and working in **North East England** the following websites will be useful:

Find Your Place – [www.nhsfindyourplace.co.uk](http://www.nhsfindyourplace.co.uk)

Great Exhibition of the North – [www.getnorth2018.com](http://www.getnorth2018.com)

Guide to Newcastle and Gateshead – [www.newcastlegateshead.com](http://www.newcastlegateshead.com)

Heritage Coast: Sunderland, Durham and Hartlepool – [www.durhamheritagecoast.org](http://www.durhamheritagecoast.org)

This is Durham – [www.thisisdurham.com](http://www.thisisdurham.com)

Living North – [www.livingnorth.com/northeast](http://www.livingnorth.com/northeast)

National Trust – [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionyorkshirenortheast/north-east](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out/regionyorkshirenortheast/north-east)

Hadrian's Wall Country – [www.hadrianswallcountry.co.uk](http://www.hadrianswallcountry.co.uk)



**NHS ENGLAND'S PARTNERS:**



Royal College of  
General Practitioners

General  
Medical  
Council



**BMA**



Health Education England

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:**

[www.england.nhs.uk/igpr](http://www.england.nhs.uk/igpr)

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