

Podiatrist

What is it?

A podiatrist is a healthcare professional who specializes in diagnosing, treating, and preventing conditions of the feet, ankles, and lower limbs. They help manage issues like bunions, corns, plantar fasciitis, and diabetic foot care.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

A degree in podiatry, which is typically a 3–4-year programme. Registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) is required to practice as a podiatrist in the UK.

Some podiatrists may also pursue further qualifications for specialized areas, such as diabetic foot care or surgery.

What the Work Involves:

Assessing, diagnosing, and treating conditions related to the feet, ankles, and lower limbs. Prescribing treatments, which may include medication, exercises, or orthotics (custom foot supports). Performing surgeries in certain cases, such as bunion removal or ingrown toenail correction. Educating patients on foot care, especially for those with conditions like diabetes. Working with multidisciplinary teams, including doctors, physiotherapists, and nurses, to provide holistic care.

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

With an ageing population and increasing levels of diabetes, the demand for podiatrists is expected to rise. There are opportunities for podiatrists to specialise in areas such as sports podiatry, diabetic foot care, or even surgery. The UK's NHS and private healthcare sectors both offer job opportunities for podiatrists.

Average annual Salary - £24,000 - £45,000

Typical weekly hours – 37.5+

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

Detail-oriented individuals with good manual dexterity and a strong interest in healthcare. Excellent communication skills to explain treatments and build patient rapport. A caring and empathetic nature, especially when dealing with patients in pain or with long-term conditions.

Money/Wage Guide:

Entry-level: £24,000–£28,000

Experienced: £30,000–£35,000

Senior/Private practice: £40,000–£50,000+

Related Opportunities:

- Sports Podiatrist
- Foot Health Practitioner
- Orthotist
- Physiotherapist

Further Information:

Royal College of Surgeons: Health and Care Professions Council – Podiatrist

The College of Podiatry

Prospects – Podiatrist Career Profile