

Medical illustrator

What is it?

A Medical Illustrator creates images, photographs, videos and digital graphics that explain medical conditions, treatments and procedures. Their work is used in hospitals, medical training, textbooks, research, and patient information. Medical Illustrators help doctors, nurses and students understand complex medical information clearly and accurately.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

A degree in medical illustration, biomedical science, photography, graphic design or art. Many people also complete a postgraduate qualification in medical illustration or clinical photography.

Experience working in healthcare settings is very important.

Many Medical Illustrators train while working in NHS hospitals

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Creative and artistic with strong attention to detail.
- Interested in science and medicine.
- Calm, professional and sensitive when working with patients.
- Confident using digital tools and design software.
- Able to work accurately under pressure.

What the Work Involves:

- Taking clinical photographs of conditions, procedures or injuries.
- Creating medical illustrations, diagrams and animations.
- Producing visual materials for teaching, research and patient care.
- Working closely with doctors, nurses and patients.
- Editing images and videos using specialist software.
- Following strict confidentiality, safety and ethical guidelines.

Money/Wage Guide:

- **Starting Salary: £28,000-£31,000**
- **Experienced Salary: £38,000-£45,000+**

Related Opportunities:

- **Clinical Photographer**
- **Graphic Designer**
- **Biomedical Artist**
- **Scientific Animator**

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

Medical illustration is a **small and competitive field**, but demand remains steady in hospitals, universities and research centres. You can specialise in areas such as **forensic photography, 3D imaging, or digital animation**.

Typical weekly hours – 37 to 40 hours per week.

*Some roles may include **on-call or rota work**, especially in hospital setting*

Further Information:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/medical-illustrator>

<https://www.imi.org.uk>