

# Meet Soraya



## Doctor (CT1 Surgical Trainee)

Hi, my name is Soraya. I am a doctor and work in the General Surgical Department at the Royal United Hospitals Bath. Find out more about me and what I do below.

### What do you do?

After studying at medical school, I completed my foundation training. I am now doing my core surgical training which lasts two years. This means that I am developing my skills and knowledge to become a surgeon. During this time, I must take an exam to become a member of the Royal College of Surgeons. Once I have finished this training, I can then begin my speciality surgical training which lasts for a minimum of six years, before becoming a Consultant. I am currently working in General Surgery. General surgeons perform elective (planned) and emergency surgery on the abdomen.

### What inspired you to do medicine?

I don't come from a medical background - my mother is a Yoga teacher and my father worked in sales. I really enjoyed both Art and Science at school - and did both at A-Level. I studied A-Level Art, Biology, Maths and AS Level Accounting in my first year and AS Level Chemistry in my second year. I wanted a career in something which was intellectually stimulating, rewarding and dynamic. After discussion with a careers tutor at college, I did some work experience in my local hospital and really enjoyed this.

### Do you have any regrets regarding your career or education?

I thoroughly enjoyed medical school and have enjoyed working as a

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Doctor. I certainly do have days when I think, “should I have done Dentistry?” (for the 9-5 life, procedural aspect and good pay) and other days when I wonder what I would be doing if I had pursued an Art-based career. But ultimately, I am enjoying what I am doing and feel happy in my choices.

### **What is your least favourite part of your job?**

I am a core surgical trainee and the additional work that I have to do over and above my day-to-day job (e.g. audits, research, exams) is quite tiring and requires a fair amount of extra time. This should ease somewhat as I progress through training. (Note, however, that other specialities do not necessarily require as much extra work.)

### **What is your favourite part about your job?**

My favourite part is the dynamic working environment with a whole range of people and professionals. I really enjoy interacting with patients and problem solving as you work out what you need to do and implement that management. There are so many opportunities within medicine and so many different specialities to choose from depending on what aspects you enjoy the most. It's well respected, relatively well paid and there is definitely job security.