

Surgeon



James
Penfold

My parents were always supportive of any career that I wanted to pursue. My interest in science was cultured early on with close family members that fell ill. I really wanted to be someone that could make a difference. I felt a passion to understand what was going on and could do something about it.

I found that the support of my teachers in high school and having science teachers that made the topics interesting. The environment I grew up in was a large factor in me making the decision to study STEM. I don't think that the level of interest in the STEM fields is low among the Pacific community. However, I think there is a systemic issue where people in the Pacific community have a mind-set that limits their potential.

STEM careers are sometimes portrayed as difficult and not interesting. I think studying a pathway in STEM provides more options. I decided to study medicine at age 16, I am currently in my third year of medicine at The University of Auckland. I will be doing the medical Honours programme in 2018 which involves a year of focused research with the surgical department at Auckland Hospital. None of this would have been possible without the support networks I have at home and at University, particularly the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme (MAPAS).

Pathway:

- Year 11: Geometry, Algebra, English, Maths, Physics
- Year 12 & 13 (IB): Maths standard level, Arabic standard level, Biology higher level, Chemistry higher level, Economics higher level, Theory of Knowledge, English
- University of Auckland: Bachelors of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) and Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours)

Surgeon

www.careers.govt.nz

Surgeons consult with patients and operate on people to treat and manage disease and injuries.

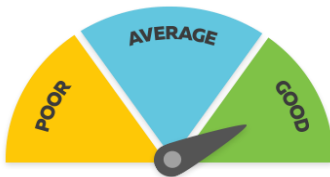
Pay

Trainee surgeons usually earn
\$70K-\$175K per year

Experienced surgeons usually earn
\$151K-\$600K per year

Source: Association of Salaried Medical Specialists & Resident Doctors' Association.

Job opportunities



Chances of getting a job as a surgeon are good due to a shortage of workers.

Secondary education

To enter tertiary training, you need to have NCEA Level 3. Useful subjects include mathematics with calculus and/or statistics, chemistry, physics, biology, and English.

Length of training

13-15 years of training required

