



Further careers information and useful websites

You will see from the job descriptions that there is a wide range of careers within biomedical sciences. You may have also noticed that there is one branch of careers or profession specifically entitled Biomedical Scientist. Try to remember this when you are searching for careers within biomedical science – if you're not looking for information about Biomedical Scientists you may have to widen your search.

In the following sections you will find more information about the opportunities open to Biomedical Scientists and some of the other careers within biomedical sciences.

If a job you are interested in requires a certain qualification details of all of the Universities and Colleges in the UK can be accessed through the Higher Education and Research Opportunities (HERO) website listed in the General Information section of the Useful Websites.

Biomedical Scientists and other careers

The profession of **Biomedical Scientist** is continually changing and dynamic, offering diverse long term career prospects including management, research and education. It provides opportunities for highly specialised work, using state of the art techniques and equipment.

Employers are wide ranging and are not restricted to the NHS, but include organisations as diverse as Cancer Research, the Health Protection Agency, Veterinary Service, the Health and Safety Executive; but also forensic laboratories, the defence agencies/HM forces. There are also opportunities in the private sector for example, in large multinational pharmaceutical companies, food and drink companies e.g. Diageo, makers of Guinness and even in cosmetic companies such as L'Oreal. Finally, do not overlook the possibility of working overseas e.g. with VSO and the World Health Organisation.

To enter the profession, it is possible either to do an Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) accredited biomedical degree, or by doing a related degree and then doing an IBMS accredited postgraduate course part-time whilst working. To get state registration you would have to register with the Health Professions Council (HPC) and undertake a specified period of in-service training. There are also opportunities (e.g. **laboratory technician or medical laboratory assistant**) which you can get into straight from school or after doing a HNC/HND in a relevant subject. It may be possible, if your employer is willing to fund further study, to do an accredited biomedical degree part-time whilst working. Please see the IBMS website in the Useful Websites section for further information.

Other related career options include, **patent lawyer, nursing, physiotherapist, medical sales representative** to name a few. Click on the general careers information websites below for further details of these options.

Not planning on going to University?

For anyone who is not interested in going on to University there are a number of assistant positions available in the health service and in laboratories e.g. **health care assistants, physiotherapy assistants, speech and language therapy assistants, laboratory assistants**, to name a few. These are jobs in themselves and are not training positions, although they can give valuable experience for anyone wanting to become professionally qualified, this usually would entail doing a full time degree course or professional qualification. In some circumstances it may be possible to remain in the role and study part time for a professional qualification. Please note that such opportunities are more common in the laboratory setting and, with the exception of ambulance care assistant, they are rare in the health care professions, depending on the specialism. Things do change and further opportunities are developing, so for a fuller picture of opportunities for progression and for general information on assistant level positions see the NHS website or the Learn Direct careers site in the General Information section of the Useful Websites.

Relevant courses are often run at Further Education Colleges so it is worth contacting your local FE College to find out what they have available and to ask their advice on the different jobs their courses could lead to.

Useful websites for further information:

(Please note the following list is not comprehensive; it is merely intended to give an understanding of the broad range of employers of people working in biomedical science and the types of jobs and courses available. All websites listed were accessible as of July 2006)

General Information

www.careers.ed.ac.uk/STUDENTS/Careers/websites.html

The University of Edinburgh Careers Service website of occupational information & web links.

www.prospects.ac.uk

Website aimed at undergraduates and graduates. See section on 'Jobs and work' > 'Explore types of jobs' and search for e.g. "biomedical scientist" or "patent attorney".



www.doctorjob.com

A general careers information site for undergraduates and graduates. Click on 'engineering and science' link on the left hand side of the page – the advice section profiles different jobs.

www.exacteditions.com/exact/browse/324/337/1216/2/1

On-line copy of the 'New Scientist' career guide.

www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u

The Careers Service careers information site.

www.learn-direct-advice.co.uk/helpwithyourcareer/jobprofiles

Learn Direct's general careers information site.

www.infoscotland.com/nhs

Careers in the NHS – Scotland.

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk

Careers in the NHS – England & Wales

www.careers-scotland.org.uk

Careers Scotland's website which has a database of careers information about jobs.

www.planet-science.com

The Planet Science website. See "Next Steps" section for lots of careers information and advice – the "Meet Your Match" database profiles different people and their jobs.

www.scenta.co.uk

A Science, Engineering and Technology careers website. Click on "Jobs" at the top of the page and then click on "Role Models" (top of the page) to search for different people and their jobs.

www.hero.ac.uk

The official gateway to UK universities, colleges and research organisations.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS

www.ibms.org

The Institute of Biomedical Science. See section on careers.

PHARMACEUTICALS

www.abpi-careers.org.uk

Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry careers website.

www.chasepharmajobs.com

Example of an agency recruiting for medical sales representatives.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

www.nimr.mrc.ac.uk

National Institute for Medical Research.

www.mrc.ac.uk

Medical Research Council and related Research Institutes in Scotland include:

www.iscr.ed.ac.uk

Institute for Stem Cell Research (Edinburgh)

www.hgu.mrc.ac.uk

MRC Human Genetics Unit (Edinburgh)

www.hrsu.mrc.ac.uk

MRC Human Reproductive Sciences Unit (Edinburgh)

www.msoc-mrc.gla.ac.uk

MRC Social & Public Health Sciences unit (Glasgow)

www.mrcvu.gla.ac.uk

MRC Virology Unit (Glasgow)

<http://donald.mph.ed.ac.uk>

The University of Edinburgh's Medical Physics Science Communication website. See section on "people" for a career profile on each member of the team.

<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/youthandschools>

The youth and schools section of the Cancer Research UK website. Follow the link for "Careers Ideas" on the left.

FORENSIC SCIENCE

www.forensic-science-society.org.uk

The Forensic Science Society.

www.forensic.gov.uk

The Forensic Science Service is the main supplier of forensic services to Police Forces in England & Wales.

Police Forces in Scotland have their own specialist forensic labs:

www.strathclyde.police.uk

See under 'specialist units' > 'forensic support'.

www.lbp.police.uk/forensicscience

Website currently in the process of being updated (August 06).

www.grampianpolicecareers.co.uk

Grampian Police Forensic Science Laboratory.

www.pfsld.com

Police Forensic Laboratory, Dundee.

www.dstl.gov.uk

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory.

FOOD & DRINK

www.defra.gov.uk

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

www.food.gov.uk

Food Standards Agency.

COSMETICS

www.scs.org.uk

The Society of Cosmetic Scientists.

PATENT AGENT WORK

www.cipa.org.uk

Chartered Institute of Patent Agents (CIPA).

www.patent.gov.uk

UK Patent Office.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

www.csp.org.uk

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

www.acpat.org.uk

Association of Chartered Physiotherapists
in Animal Therapy.

NURSING

www.nmc-uk.org

Nursing & Midwifery Council.

www.rcn.org.uk

Royal College of Nursing.

OVERSEAS

www.vso.org

Voluntary Services Overseas.

www.who.org

World Health Organisation.

WORK EXPERIENCE PROJECTS

www.nuffieldfoundation.org/fileLibrary/pdf/Bursaries8pp2005.pdf

Brochure about the Nuffield Scheme for Schools and Colleges. Bursaries are awarded to UK school students (16+) to enable them to take part in science based projects, lasting 4-6 weeks, in universities, industry or research institutions during the summer holidays.

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE (SCOTLAND)

In September, every Scottish secondary pupil (S3 – S6) will have access to virtual work experience as part of careers lessons in school. Three ‘Virtual Worlds’ have been created using gaming technology. Ask your guidance teacher or careers adviser for more information. For those not in school this service will soon be available on-line through Careers Scotland centres.