

Career ideas for students & graduates - Molecular Biology & Biotechnology

Getting started

Want some ideas about what to do with your subject? Start off by investigating the Careers with my Degree section of the Careers Service website: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/mbb. On this website, you'll find information about what graduates from your course at Sheffield go on to do after their degree along with MBB graduate case studies. Also see the section *Your options*, which provides a broader picture of what MBB graduates could go on to do as well as useful downloads that contain more information about careers in research, pharmaceuticals, the healthcare sector and other areas relevant to MBB.

To generate ideas more personal to you have a go at 'What jobs would suit me?', which you can link to from the *Understanding yourself* section of the above website. Take your time completing the online questionnaire to generate more meaningful suggestions of what jobs might suit your interests, skills and motivations. If you need help thinking about your skills, interests, personality and motivation, have a go at the 'Profiling for Success' activities in the *Understanding yourself* section or speak to a Careers Adviser. For more information on getting started: pick up a copy of 'See the Bigger Picture' from the Careers Service or download a copy: www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/bigger_picture/see_the_bigger_picture.pdf

What do Sheffield's MBB graduates do? (And resources to find out more)

Each year, the Careers Service collects information about what graduates from this University are doing 6 months after graduation. Although this is only a snap-shot in time, the information collected gives an indication of the range of employment options open to you as a graduate. Below are some of the more common destinations for MBB graduates, along with some useful links for you to find out more about jobs and careers in these areas.

Careers in a research environment – the starting point for individuals hoping to pursue a high-level career in research is usually a **Masters** and/or **PhD**, which will enable them to develop the necessary in-depth knowledge and research experience (ask your tutor about MSc, MRes and PhDs or see www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/flipbooks/pgstudyresearch/files/assets/basic-html/index.html#1). Around half of MBB graduates go into PG study or research, many in a research-related field. However, a few graduates go straight into a career in the lab in roles such as research assistants, research technicians, trainee scientists (including clinical, R&D, process and production) or analysts. Potential employers include: Universities (www.jobs.ac.uk); NHS inc. Scientists Training Programme (managerial role) or science practitioner / healthcare science associate roles (technical) (www.nhscareers.nhs.uk; www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/pdf/NHS.pdf); pharmaceutical companies (careers.abpi.org.uk); biotechnology companies, especially SMEs (www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/pdf/sme.pdf); Government and other public bodies (www.gov.uk/government/organisations) and medical research charities (www.jobs.ac.uk/careers-advice/working-in-industry/977/careers-in-medical-research-charities) plus other areas like food production, cosmetics and personal care product manufacture. For more: 'Careers in a Research Environment – information for MBB Scientists' www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/careersdegree/mbb_labcareers.pdf

Using your science in other ways - many science graduates want to use their degree but not by directly working in a research lab. Here are a few alternatives to investigate:

Science Communication (www.britishtscienceassociation.org). **Scientific Publishing or Scientific Journalism** (www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_publishing_and_journalism.htm). **Scientific or Medical Writing** (www.kent.ac.uk/careers/workin/sciencewriting.htm). **Scientific Broadcasting** (www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_media.htm). **Medical / Scientific Sales** (careers.abpi.org.uk/working-in-the-industry/commercial/Pages/default.aspx). **Clinical Trials Co-ordinator** (www.icr-global.org/careers;careers.abpi.org.uk/working-in-the-industry/research/clinical-studies/Pages/default.aspx). **Regulatory Affairs** (www.prospects.ac.uk/regulatory_officer_job_description.htm). **Patent Attorney or Patent Examiner** (www.insidecareers.co.uk/professions/patent-attorneys;www.prospects.ac.uk/patent_examiner_job_description.htm).



Solicitor / Barrister inc. Intellectual Property (www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/law). **Policy and Campaigning** (www.icsu.org; sciencecampaign.org.uk). **Bio or Health Informatics** (www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/health-informatics; www.biomedcentral.com/bmcmmedinformdecismak). **Clinical Data Management** (www.acdm.org.uk). **Librarians and Information Managers** (www.cilip.org.uk); **Manufacturing and Production** inc planning, co-ordinating and managing (www.kent.ac.uk/careers/workin/production.htm) health and safety management (www.iosh.co.uk) quality control (www.thecqi.org) or supply chain / logistics (www.careersinsupplychain.org). Typical employers include pharmaceutical companies, chemical manufacturers, health and household products and food production companies. **Health Service Management** (www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/management). **Management Consultancy** (www.mca.org.uk). **Health Economics** (www.prospects.ac.uk/case_studies_economist_case_study_1.htm). **Civil Service** science-related policy and admin (www.prospects.ac.uk/civil_service_administrator_job_description.htm). **Local Government** policy and admin (www.prospects.ac.uk/local_government_officer_job_description.htm). **Third Sector** working for non-profit organisations, maybe with a scientific or health-related theme, in areas such as fund-raising or admin (www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_charity_voluntary_work.htm).

Medicine, dentistry and other medical-related professions - the Careers Service has a range of resources about getting into medicine and dentistry, for details see: www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/infotree/Health.php. Also see our online talks: www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/presentations/gettingmedicine/player.html and www.careers.dept.shef.ac.uk/presentations/medicinetests/player.html. NHS Careers (www.nhscareers.nhs.uk) has comprehensive information about various health care related roles such as radiotherapy, dietetics, nursing and physician's assistant – also see: www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm.

Teaching – Secondary teaching is the obvious option for those wishing to specialise in science but teaching at primary or FE level is also an option: getintoteaching.education.gov.uk; www.feadvice.org.uk. HE lecturing requires a PhD: www.prospects.ac.uk/higher_education_lecturer_job_description.htm - talk to your tutor.

Something completely different – Around 60% of all graduate jobs are open to graduates of any discipline. A range of employers value science graduates for their analytical skills, logical problem solving and attention to detail. So if you have a flair for something different, go for it! Past MBB graduates have gone into careers as diverse as working in the police and prison services, events management, retail, recruitment, human resources, business, finance, tax and pensions and in general management roles. For other ideas about what to do with your subject, go to the Careers Service's 'Careers with my degree' web pages: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/degree/mbb. Also see Next Steps after a Bioscience degree: www.sebiology.org/education/docs/Next_steps_web.pdf.

Additional ways to explore types of careers

- There are a couple of useful blogs dedicated to careers after biological science, which you may find useful: biosciencecareers.wordpress.com and <https://blogs.jobs.ac.uk>.
- The 'Prospects' website can help you find out about a range of occupations, see www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm. This includes information such as job descriptions, salary and conditions, entry requirements, training, career development and case studies. Also see targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors and www.insidecareers.co.uk
- Societies and professional bodies can be a good source of careers information; many have careers pages. Each and every occupational area will normally have at least one society and/or a professional body associated with it – of you aren't sure which society represents the sort of science that interests you, ask your tutor or lecturer for ideas. For other career areas, search for professional bodies via the Trade Association Forum: www.taforum.org (look in the 'Directories' section). This website also carries labour market news.
- The Royal Society of Biology (www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/careers) has a useful careers section for students which includes a 'Make a Difference' set of career ideas that has been compiled with the Biochemical Society, British Pharmacological Society, Society for Experimental Biology, Society for General Microbiology, Royal Society of Biology, The Physiological Society and the British Ecological Society.
- For added inspiration, see New Scientist Careers Special: jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/landingpage/1401410893/careers-guide-uk. Also useful are Guardian Careers: www.theguardian.com/careers and Network: www.theguardian.com/guardian-professional

The Careers Service

If you need help getting started, making career decisions, job hunting or seeking further study, then book an appointment to see a Careers Adviser at the Careers Service on Level 1, 388 Glossop Road.