



Career Resources for MSc Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience and MSc (Res) Cognitive Neuroscience and Human Neuroimaging

Introduction

The majority of students on these programmes intend to pursue a career in research. For most the starting point is a PhD, which will enable them to develop the necessary in-depth knowledge and research experience. The MScs provide an excellent springboard for future PhD applications, and information about PhDs is available from tutors and the University Careers Service. However, some graduates wish to go directly into other roles, often utilising skills gained during their first degree alongside those developed during their Masters degree. This leaflet outlines a range of options and provides links to sources of further information.

Planning Your Career

Your career choices will be influenced by a number of factors such as the elements you have enjoyed and been motivated by during your Masters degree, your undergraduate degree, any work experience that you have undertaken and your skills, abilities, interests, values and motivations. Many students within the Psychology department are interested in routes into Chartered Psychology which are described on the British Psychology Association website at <http://careers.bps.org.uk/>. However, students on the MSc CCN and MSc (Res) CNHN programmes have often come from backgrounds in science and engineering and may be interested in applying the learning from their Masters degree in a different context.

If you are just beginning to explore your career options, there is a useful career planning resource on the Prospects website at http://www.prospects.ac.uk/myprospects_planner_login.htm which enables you to generate ideas about your future career. There are also a range of resources on the Careers Service website at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/worktypes/getstarted>.

For exploring your career ideas, the Types of Jobs section of the Prospects website at http://www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm provides articles about a wide range of jobs, detailing the key activities involved, entry requirements and sources of vacancy information.

For information about careers with your degree, visit the relevant pages on the Careers Service website at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/degree> and the Options with Your Subject pages on the Prospects website at http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm. The Careers Service has produced a number of leaflets such as this for students from different degree disciplines, so check the links for your first degree subject as well as your Masters degree. Remember that in addition to the roles mentioned in this leaflet, there are careers which you can go into whatever your degree subject.

Commonly, new graduates seeking employment in research-related environments might work in roles such as research assistant, research technician, scientist / trainee scientist (e.g. in clinical research, research and development, process and production etc), analyst, bio- or medical-information officer, regulatory affairs, health and safety and quality assessment / assurance.

A few choose to work for scientific organisations but in non-lab roles, for example in related roles such as medical sales or technical authoring, or in business management jobs such as human resources or finance. Others go into administration positions or into media / PR, for example with one of the scientific learned societies, scientific publishing companies or research charities.



The sections which follow provide links to a selection of relevant resources.

Vacancy Sources for Related Areas of Work

Journals, Magazines and Newspapers:

Nature jobs: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/>

Neuroscience News: <http://neurosciencenews.com/neuroscience-jobs-board/>

Science Mag: <http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/>

New Scientist Jobs: <http://jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/>

The Scientist: <http://careers.the-scientist.com/>

Learned Societies and Professional Associations

British Neuroscience Association <http://www.bna.org.uk/jobs/>

Society for Neuroscience: <http://www.sfn.org/Careers-and-Training/NeuroJobs-Career-Center>

Federation of European Neuroscience Societies: <http://www.fens.org/About-Neuroscience/Jobs/>

Bioindustry Association: <http://www.bioindustry.org/home/>

Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine: <http://www.ipem.ac.uk/Jobs.aspx>

Association of British Healthcare Industries: <http://www.abhi.org.uk/>

Vacancy Databases and Jobs Boards

Emed careers: <http://www.emedcareers.com/>

Jobs in Science: <http://www.jobsinscience.com/>

PhDs.org: <http://jobs.phds.org/>

Universities and other Research Institutes: <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/>

Biomedical Engineer: <http://www.biomedicalengineer.com/>

EBME (Medical Engineering Gateway site): <http://www.ebme.co.uk/jobs>

The Engineer: <http://jobs.theengineer.co.uk/>

Engineering Jobs: <http://www.engineeringjobs.co.uk/>

Research Gate: <http://www.researchgate.net/jobs/research>

UK Engineering Recruitment: <http://www.ukengineeringrecruitment.net/>

The Medweb: <http://www.themedweb.co.uk>

Find a PhD: <http://www.findaphd.com/>

Recruitment Consultancies

Search for recruitment consultancies at:

Recruitment and Employment Confederation: <https://www.rec.uk.com/>

Agency Central: <http://www.agencycentral.co.uk/>

Links to some options related to your Masters degree discipline

Charity sector

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/charities_voluntary_sector.htm

<http://www.charitychoice.co.uk/charities/health>

Clinical research and trials industry

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/clinical_research_associate_job_description.htm

<http://www.icr-global.org/careers/downloads/>

Contract Research Organisations

www.ccra.org.uk

Clinical Data Management

www.acdm.org.uk

Government departments and other public bodies

See <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations> for a listing of government departments, agencies and other public bodies.

Local government jobs: <http://www.lgjobs.com/vacancies>

Health and Safety

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/health_and_safety_adviser_job_description.htm

<http://www.iosh.co.uk/>

Information Officer

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/information_officer_job_description.htm

Medical Sales

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/medical_sales_representative_job_description.htm

See <http://www.abpi.org.uk> for a list of pharmaceutical companies.

NHS Clinical Scientist Training Programme

[http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/healthcare-science/training/nhs-scientist-training-programme-\(stp\)/](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/healthcare-science/training/nhs-scientist-training-programme-(stp)/)

NHS Opportunities

<http://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>

For contact details of NHS and private labs go to <http://www.cpa-uk.co.uk/> and click on 'Medical Laboratories' under 'Enrolled' in the left-hand menu of the home page

Patent Attorney

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/patent_attorney_job_description.htm

<http://www.cipa.org.uk/pages/home>

Pharmaceutical Industry

<http://careers.abpi.org.uk>

Case Study : <http://careers.abpi.org.uk/case-studies/Pages/neuroscience-knowledge-adviser.aspx>

Quality Assessment / Assurance

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/quality_manager_job_description.htm

<http://www.thecqi.org/Knowledge-Hub/Find-a-job/>

Regulatory Affairs

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/regulatory_affairs_officer_job_description.htm

<http://careers.abpi.org.uk/working-in-the-industry/research/Pages/regulatory-affairs.aspx>

<http://www.topra.org/>

Scientific Journalism / Writing

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/science_writer_job_description.htm

<http://www.mediauk.com/> gives details of UK newspapers and magazines.

Science Policy Development eg. Civil service, Research Councils, Learned Societies

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/civil_service_fast_streamer_job_description.htm

<http://faststream.civilservice.gov.uk/the-different-streams/generalist/science-and-engineering/>

Opportunities with Research Councils: <http://www.topcareer.jobs/>

Scientific Publishing

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/publishing_copy_editor_proofreader_job_description.htm

<http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/Issues/2012/January/TheScienceOfPublishing.asp>

Statistician

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/statistician_job_description.htm

Office for National Statistics: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/index.html>

Royal Statistical Society: <https://www.rss.org.uk/>

Teaching

<http://www.education.gov.uk/get-into-teaching>

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/secondary_school_teacher_job_description.htm

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/further_education_lecturer_job_description.htm

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/higher_education_lecturer_job_description.htm

Technical Authoring

http://www.prospects.ac.uk/technical_author_job_description.htm

Some general job-hunting tips

- Be proactive in your search and use your initiative. Do not limit your chances by only looking at online jobsites or vacancy listings. Use professional associations, learned societies, web search engines and even Yellow Pages (www.yell.com) to find organisations in your area of interest and check out their websites. If they don't have a jobs page, contact them directly. A professional, tailored speculative application (CV and covering letter) is recommended to tap into the 'hidden' jobs market: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob
- Spread the net as widely as possible. Don't just aim for the large, well known organisations. Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) make up a good proportion of graduate employers. You can usually find details about SMEs in a locality by contacting bodies such as Chambers of Commerce (www.britishchambers.org.uk) or science parks (www.ukspa.org.uk). Some universities, including Sheffield, create 'spin-out' companies that employ small numbers of staff and are worth investigating. If

you are looking to stay in the Yorkshire region, check out career sector information at www.graduatesyorkshire.co.uk/employment-training

- Talk to people in the know. A very effective way to find possible jobs is to talk to employers directly. Try doing simple things like attending talks and fairs run as part of the Careers Service's 'What's on' events programme (www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/events) or any events in your department. Be prepared – find out which employers will be at the event, research them on the web first and then take a copy of your CV, so that you can try to chat with potential employers after the formal part of the event. They will be happy to share your enthusiasm. Go along to information-sharing and networking events like Café Scientifique (www.sciencecafesheffield.org and cafescientifique.org). Staff and others in your department, including PhD students, may have some useful contacts for you to follow up. All are ideal ways to build your network of contacts.
- Make use of social media in your job hunt. LinkedIn is a well-used professional networking site where you can post a profile, connect to other users, join groups and join in discussions. There are groups for both neuroscience and computational neuroscience within LinkedIn. You can also follow organisations on Facebook and Twitter. For more information about incorporating social media into your job hunt, visit the Careers Service website at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob/media> and download our Social Media booklet.
- Make use of online, searchable databases for a wide variety of job opportunities suitable for students of all degree disciplines, including biosciences. In particular, look at the Careers Service's myVacancies listing at www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/jobs.
- For jobs further afield, check out 'myInternational Career': www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/inter.
- Competition for jobs is often strong. Ensure your applications are effective by getting help from the Careers Service: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students/gettingajob. If you need to add some experience to your CV, particularly to gain experience in specific research skills or lab techniques, talk to your tutor and/or project supervisor as you might be able gain this during your Masters. For help and general information on finding work experience, contact the Careers Service. Be flexible in terms of the length and type of experience you seek. A day or two work shadowing is a useful way into an organisation and may lead to further work experience. This is also a great way to build networks for job hunting.

Need more help?

The University Careers Service is located at 388 Glossop Road and provides advice on all aspects of career development. We offer specific services to support International Students and Taught Postgraduate students. To arrange an appointment with a Careers Adviser, call in to the Careers Service or telephone us on 0114 222 0910.

For more advice see our comprehensive website at www.shef.ac.uk/careers/students.