



# ALTERNATIVE CAREERS IN SCIENCE

## What are your options?

- **Use your scientific knowledge:** If you don't want to pursue a lab based or technical role, then consider careers where you can apply your scientific knowledge in a different context. Options include: science communication, teaching, intellectual property and science policy to name a few.
- **Non-scientific career:** According to TargetJobs ([targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/science-and-research/285505-beyond-science-alternative-graduate-careers-for-scientists](http://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/science-and-research/285505-beyond-science-alternative-graduate-careers-for-scientists)), around 40% of jobs are open to students with any degree. This means as a science graduate you can work in careers sectors as different to your first degree as engineering, IT or finance. If you are looking to pursue a non-scientific; our guide on finding a graduate job ([www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs.bho/graduatejob.pdf](http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs.bho/graduatejob.pdf)) is a useful starting point. Our choosing a career ([www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs/choosing.pdf](http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs/choosing.pdf)) and don't want to use my subject ([www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs/subject.pdf](http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs/subject.pdf)) helpsheets make for useful reading. You might also find it helpful to have an impartial chat ([www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/one-to-one/index.html#guidance](http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/one-to-one/index.html#guidance)) with our careers advisers who will help you to reflect on your skills and point you to further resources.

## Using your scientific knowledge

If you are considering using your science knowledge, you may want to consider exploring the following career options.

**Science Communication:** The communication of science to public audiences, politicians, journalists, educators and so on, is a broad sector of employment. In recent years there has been an increase in scientific media coverage, and a push by the scientific community and policy-makers to involve more of the public through 'Science and Society' ([blogs.nature.com/naturejobs/2015/06/19/science-communication-let-me-explain](http://blogs.nature.com/naturejobs/2015/06/19/science-communication-let-me-explain)) initiatives. These include the development of some new major science visitor attractions, alongside running focus groups, media campaigns and science festivals. Typical roles within science communication include:

- Science Journalism - [casw.org/casw/guide-careers-science-writing](http://casw.org/casw/guide-careers-science-writing)
- Museum Education - [www.museumsassociation.org/careers/9912](http://www.museumsassociation.org/careers/9912)
- Events Organisation - [www.prospects.ac.uk/event\\_organiser\\_job\\_description.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/event_organiser_job_description.htm)
- Science Outreach - [oitecareersblog.wordpress.com/2010/11/30/careers-in-science-education-and-outreach/](http://oitecareersblog.wordpress.com/2010/11/30/careers-in-science-education-and-outreach/)

**Science Publishing:** to start with you may find it helpful to look at some general careers information in publishing ([targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/media-journalism-and-publishing/289043-know-your-editors-a-graduates-guide-to-jobs-in-the-publishing-world](http://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/media-journalism-and-publishing/289043-know-your-editors-a-graduates-guide-to-jobs-in-the-publishing-world)) and writing ([targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/media-journalism-and-publishing/288849-writing-graduate-area-of-work](http://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/media-journalism-and-publishing/288849-writing-graduate-area-of-work)). Despite the growth in online publishing (scientific journals), scientific writing and publishing continues to grow in the UK. The main publishers tend to be based in Oxford, Cambridge and London. Opportunities are usually advertised in publications such as New Scientist ([jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/](http://jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/)).

- The Royal Society of Chemists ([www.rsc.org/](http://www.rsc.org/)): offers a one-year graduate training scheme.
- Future Science Group ([www.future-science-group.com/](http://www.future-science-group.com/)): actively recruits graduates.
- Atwood Tate ([www.atwoodtatepublishingjobs.co.uk/Atwood/index.asp](http://www.atwoodtatepublishingjobs.co.uk/Atwood/index.asp)): are a specialist recruitment agency who regularly advertise scientific and medical publishing roles.

Publishing remains a competitive area and employers like to see examples of previous writing. It is worth creating a personal blog and writing for the university paper to build your portfolio.

**Medical Writing:** this area of work involves writing protocols, clinical trial reports and patient information for the pharmaceutical industry authorities. Medical writers also design and develop marketing literature and presentations for conferences. Some employers prefer a science PhD. While most medical writers start out working for an agency, many freelance or work flexibly from home for an agency after gaining some experience.

- NetworkPharma ([medcommsnetworking.com/careersguide.pdf](http://medcommsnetworking.com/careersguide.pdf)): have produced an excellent guide to getting started in medical writing.
- AcademicInvest ([www.academicinvest.com/science-careers/biology-careers/how-to-become-a-medical-writer](http://www.academicinvest.com/science-careers/biology-careers/how-to-become-a-medical-writer)): also provides excellent starting out advice.
- The European Medical Writers Association ([www.emwa.org/documents/about\\_us/Career.pdf](http://www.emwa.org/documents/about_us/Career.pdf)): have useful case studies showcasing the career paths of medical writers.

**Science Policy:** in this area of work scientists draw upon their knowledge and understanding of science to inform and assist in policy formulation. Typical employers would be scientific professional bodies, e.g. Royal Society, Institute of Physics, and public sector organisations, e.g. the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST). Internationally there are opportunities to work in Europe at the European Parliament. Entry opportunities are rare and employers often require a PhD, although the Wellcome Trust ([www.wellcome.ac.uk/about-us/jobs/graduate-development-programme/index.htm](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/about-us/jobs/graduate-development-programme/index.htm)) does offer a graduate training scheme.

- EuroBrussels ([eurobrussels.com/](http://eurobrussels.com/)): Policy jobs within Europe.
- New Scientist ([www.newscientist.com/](http://www.newscientist.com/)): key source of vacancies within Policy
- Campaign for Science and Engineering ([sciencecampaign.org.uk/?page\\_id=5833](http://sciencecampaign.org.uk/?page_id=5833)): contains a wealth of careers information and a useful jobs section.

**Medical Sales:** medical sales representatives, or 'reps', work for pharmaceutical companies to sell prescription drugs, medicines and medical equipment to health professionals. They promote their company's products to GPs, hospital doctors, pharmacists, dentists and nurses. If you're interested in healthcare and want a job in sales, this could be ideal for you.

- National Careers Service ([nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/medicalsalesrepresentative.aspx](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/medicalsalesrepresentative.aspx)): provides a comprehensive overview including a list of pharmaceuticals and job market information.
- Prospects ([www.prospects.ac.uk/medical\\_sales\\_representative\\_job\\_description.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/medical_sales_representative_job_description.htm)): provides a detailed overview of the role, skills requirements and salary information.
- You may also find it helpful to look at our guide to Careers in Biosciences & Pharmaceuticals ([www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs/biosciences-careers.pdf](http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs/biosciences-careers.pdf))

**Intellectual Property & Patents:** Intellectual property (IP) law is commonly divided into patents, trademarks, design rights, copyright, passing off, anti-counterfeiting and confidential information. Law firms that specialise in this area often recruit scientists to become trainee solicitors. Patent lawyers or agents help to secure effective protection for innovations and developments, and advise their clients on intellectual property rights. Scientists and engineers with an interest in the law may be interested in this area of work, which is covered in more detail on the Inside Careers ([www.insidecareers.co.uk/professions/patent-attorneys/](http://www.insidecareers.co.uk/professions/patent-attorneys/)) website.

**Science Consulting:** Science Careers from the Journal of Science have produced excellent careers information for scientists considering consulting ([sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career\\_magazine/previous\\_issues/articles/2014\\_09\\_03/car.edit.a1400222](http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_magazine/previous_issues/articles/2014_09_03/car.edit.a1400222)). You may also find it helpful to look at general careers in consulting information available on the Inside Careers ([www.insidecareers.co.uk/professions/management-consultancy/](http://www.insidecareers.co.uk/professions/management-consultancy/)) and TargetJobs ([targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/consulting](http://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/consulting)) websites.

Other alternative careers to consider include teaching ([targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education](http://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/teaching-and-education)), working for the NHS (in management and strategic roles) ([www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/)) and market research ([www.careers.ox.ac.uk/options-and-occupations/sectors-and-occupations/market-research/](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/options-and-occupations/sectors-and-occupations/market-research/)).

### Useful Websites

- Prospects ([www.prospects.ac.uk/](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/)) the UK's official graduate careers website, with vacancies searchable by sector
- Target Jobs ([targetjobs.co.uk/](http://targetjobs.co.uk/)) a wide range of graduate vacancies and sector information
- Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry ([careers.abpi.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx](http://careers.abpi.org.uk/Pages/default.aspx)) wide range of industry roles; useful list of pharmaceutical graduate recruiters and links
- Association of British Science Writers ([www.absw.org.uk/](http://www.absw.org.uk/))
- BioCareers ([www.sgm.ac.uk/all-microsite-sections/careers/index.cfm](http://www.sgm.ac.uk/all-microsite-sections/careers/index.cfm)) Good section on careers outside the laboratory
- Biochemical Society ([www.biochemistry.org/](http://www.biochemistry.org/)) jobs and careers information
- Royal Society of Chemists ([www.rsc.org/](http://www.rsc.org/)) professional body with comprehensive careers information
- Institute of Physics ([www.iop.org/careers/](http://www.iop.org/careers/)) professional body with comprehensive careers information.
- New Scientist ([jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/](http://jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/)) excellent careers articles, including international specials and jobs

- RAENG ([www.raeng.org.uk](http://www.raeng.org.uk)) a network of individuals working in science, engineering and technology policy run by the Royal Academy of Engineering
- SCI ([www.soci.org/About-Us.aspx](http://www.soci.org/About-Us.aspx)) provides information and resources to chemists and life scientists looking to build a career
- Scientists for Global Responsibility ([www.sgr.org.uk](http://www.sgr.org.uk)) ethical careers in science and technology

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