



CAREERS IN MEDICINE, DENTISTRY & ALLIED HEALTH

The healthcare sector can provide both a rewarding and challenging environment in which to work. In the UK the main employer is the National Health Service (NHS), although it may be possible to work in private hospitals or in industry for biotech companies. Quality patient-care is at the centre of all healthcare. There are opportunities for graduates, not only in healthcare practitioner roles, but also in management, scientific and support roles.

The following websites provide a useful sector overview:

- NHS Careers (www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/): overview of the wide range of careers within the NHS (covering medicine and allied health professions).
- What can I do with my degree (www.whatcanidowithmydegree.nhs.uk/): allows you to explore jobs within the healthcare with your degree subject (includes both health care and non-health care job options).

Medicine

It is becoming increasingly common for graduates to study medicine either on a five year medical degree or a shortened four year graduate medical degree. All medical graduates then undertake a generic two year Foundation Programme which forms the bridge to speciality training which can last a further 3-8 years according to the field. The following websites provide a useful overview:

- Careers in Medicine (www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/doctors/careers-in-medicine/) produced by the NHS gives a detailed overview of the different specialities.
- Graduate Entry into Medicine (www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/media/services/careersandemployabilitydivision/careersservice/crcpublications/startingpointseriesofhandouts/sectorsandoptions/GradEntryMedicine.pdf): a comprehensive guide providing information on universities, entrance exams and applications.

Work Experience & Applications:

Studying medicine requires commitment and admissions tutors will look for clear motivation within applications. You may want to talk to people working in the profession and consider some form of work experience.

- **Volunteering:** is a great way to gain experience and learn about the NHS within a social and community setting. The Do-It website (do-it.org/) allows you to search for volunteering opportunities in your local area. You may also want to look at volunteering opportunities on MyFuture (<https://myfuture.bath.ac.uk/>) and JobLink (www.bathstudent.com/joblink/).

- **Hospital Work:** most hospitals offer work experience opportunities. For a full list on NHS trusts visit the NHS website (www.nhs.uk/servicedirectoriest/pages/nhstrustlisting.aspx).
- **Paid Work:** Do consider paid work such as portering, health care assistant or support worker – paid roles can be found on the NHS (www.jobs.nhs.uk/) website.
- **Personal Statement:** University of Oxford provides excellent advice (www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine/pre-clinical/applying/anatomy-of-ps) on writing a powerful personal statement for medicine.
- **Medical School Interviews:** examples of typical interview questions. (www.careerstaggged.co.uk/files/pdf/Medic_Medical%20School%20Interviews.pdf)

Funding

The issue of funding, including eligibility and the application process, can appear complex but there is a comprehensive leaflet (www.welfare.qmul.ac.uk/documents/leaflets/funding/39689.pdf) produced by Queen Mary, University of London. Other funding resources include:

- **Trusts and Charities:** exist to help self-financing students (see *The Grants Register*, and *Directory of Grant Making Trusts* which you can find in the main University Library)
- **Grants:** search Turn2Us (www.turn2us.org.uk/), for possible charitable grants, while further ideas about managing your finances can be found at Money 4 Medstudents (www.money4medstudents.org/)
- **Universities:** Some universities have small numbers of scholarship funds, contact the institution you are considering for further information.
- **Professional Associations:** such as the British Medical Association (bma.org.uk/), may have details of bursaries, loans or trust funds available to those wishing to enter the profession.

Alternative Careers to Medicine

If you are already studying medicine or are a graduate considering an alternative career to medicine, you may want to explore these alternative options (www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.425853!/file/medicineoptions.pdf). In addition, please consider booking a 1:1 careers appointment (www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/one-to-one) with a Careers Adviser for an impartial careers chat.

Dentistry

It is becoming increasingly common for graduates to study dentistry either on a five year degree or a shortened four year graduate accelerated degree. Most dentists work as General Dental Practitioners providing care in the NHS and/or privately. Others work in a variety of hospital-based specialisms (including orthodontics), in community dentistry, the armed forces, corporate practices, industry or university teaching or research.

- Prospects Dentistry (www.prospects.ac.uk/dentist_job_description.htm): provides a broad overview of the profession including information on training routes.
- General Dental Council (www.gdc-uk.org/): provides comprehensive information, which includes entry routes, links to training providers, and information on allied professions such as Dental Nurses and Technicians.

If you are interested in working as a Dental Hygienist (www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/dental-team/careers-in-the-dental-team/dental-hygienist/) or Dental Therapist

(www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/dental-team/careers-in-the-dental-team/dental-therapist/) you will need to study for appropriate qualifications.

Work Experience & Applications:

Studying dentistry requires commitment and admissions tutors will look for clear motivation within applications. You generally need at least 2 weeks work experience in a dental surgery. You may want to talk to people working in the profession and consider some form of work experience.

- **Work Shadowing:** you may want to proactively contact local dentists in your area and try and arrange work experience. Use The NHS Find a Dentist (www.nhs.uk/Service-Search/Dentists/LocationSearch/3) service to search for practices.
- **Hospital Work:** most hospitals offer work experience opportunities. For a full list on NHS trusts visit the NHS website (www.nhs.uk/servicedirectoriest/pages/nhstrustlisting.aspx).
- **Volunteering:** is a great way to gain experience and learn about the NHS within a social and community setting. The Do-It website (do-it.org/) allows you to search for volunteering opportunities in your local area. You may also want to look at volunteering opportunities on MyFuture (<https://myfuture.bath.ac.uk/>) and JobLink (www.bathstudent.com/joblink/).
- **Application & Interviews:** University of Dundee provide comprehensive (dentistry.dundee.ac.uk/application-process) information about the application and interview process.

Allied Healthcare Professions

The Healthcare Sector offers numerous opportunities, from working in Nursing & Midwifery to Pharmacy to allied medical professions (such as Audiology, Nutrition and Speech Therapy).

Nursing & Midwifery

- Nursing & Midwifery Council (www.nmc.org.uk): regulator for the profession with valuable advice for students.
- Graduate Entry into Nursing (www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/media/services/careersandemployabilitydivision/careersservice/crcpublications/startingpointseriesofhandouts/sectorsandoptions/GradEntryNursingMidwifery.pdf): helpful guide covering training routes, funding and applications.
- Royal College of Nursing (www.rcn.org.uk): represents nurses and offers support to students.

Pharmacy

It is necessary to take a four year MPharm Pharmacy degree to qualify as a pharmacist. There is no shorter graduate entry route available. After completion of the MPharm all graduates must complete one year of pre-registration training and pass a registration exam.

- General Pharmaceutical Council (www.pharmacyregulation.org): Regulatory body for the profession. All pharmacists practising in the UK must be registered with the GPhC. They also accredit approved MPharm qualifications, a list of which can be found on their website.

- Biosciences & Pharmaceuticals: our guide to careers in Biosciences and Pharmaceuticals contains a wealth of information (www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/docs/biosciences-careers.pdf)

Psychology

All chartered or practising psychology specialisms require an undergraduate degree in psychology and then further training.

- British Psychological Society (www.bps.org.uk/careers-in-psychology): contains career profiles and training information.
- What do Bath Graduates Do? (www.bath.ac.uk/students/careers/choose-a-career/what-our-graduates-do/humanities/index.html) Explore the wide range of careers pursued by Bath Psychology undergraduates.

Allied Medical Professions

For comprehensive information on a wide range of allied medical careers please download this guide

(www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/media/services/careersandemployabilitydivision/careersservice/crcpublications/startingpointseriesofhandouts/sectorsandoptions/GraduateEntrytoAllied-Medical.pdf). Information covers: Audiology, Dietician/Nutritionist, Occupational Therapy, Orthoptist, Physiotherapy, Radiography, Speech and Language Therapy.

Careers in Health Care aren't limited to clinical or patient work, a wide range of opportunities exist in Public Health, Management and Research. Further information including links to internships and graduate schemes can be found on the LSE website.

(www.lse.ac.uk/intranet/CareersAndVacancies/careersService/EmploymentSectors/Healthcare/RoutesIntoHealthcare.aspx).

Careers Service

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