



University of
Sheffield

Biosciences

careers guide.

Shape your future

from day one.

Be Sheffield

Made.

More than a biosciences degree.

Biosciences graduates have a growing range of career options. Whether you want to become a research scientist, work in industry, support a cause, join a Top 100 graduate employer, or you're just not sure, this guide will give you an idea of the exciting careers that your degree can lead to, and how we'll help you get there.



Develop the skills employers need.

By deciding to study science, you're already off to a great start. As you train during your degree, you'll build a strong set of transferable skills that employers are looking for, including:

- ▶ analytical and creative problem-solving skills
- ▶ research and report writing
- ▶ data handling skills
- ▶ team working, presentation and other communication skills
- ▶ leadership skills and project management
- ▶ time management, planning and organisation

That's on top of all the scientific knowledge and skills that you'll gain from our expert scientists.

Helping you get to where you want to go.

Along the way, you'll find out more about yourself and what you'd like to do. There's support available at every step, including:

- ▶ Dedicated careers and skills development modules built into the curriculum
- ▶ CV and application workshops
- ▶ Mock assessment centres and practice interviews
- ▶ Placement year/industrial placement year support
- ▶ Career Connect: our online platform for jobs and placement vacancies
- ▶ mySkills app: keep track of your achievements and skills development throughout your time at Sheffield
- ▶ eMentor scheme: talk to previous placement year students and recent graduates about their experience and successes
- ▶ One-to-one appointments for specialist guidance
- ▶ Careers fairs
- ▶ Employer events, networking sessions and lectures including talks from alumni

“The University’s science placements and careers advisor supported me throughout my year in industry applications even when I was receiving rejection after rejection, she kept her faith in me and pushed me to keep going.”

Feedback from a biosciences student

We want you to leave university ready for the future you want so that, when the time comes, you can talk confidently and with evidence about your skills, experiences and personal strengths, on your CV, in applications and at job interviews.

You won't be on your own once you finish your degree either – the University Careers Service will support you for as long as you need them after graduation.

What can I do with a biosciences degree?

As a biosciences graduate from the University of Sheffield you'll have a huge range of career options open to you.

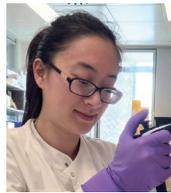
Employers seek out our graduates because of their ability to handle data, work under pressure, and communicate complex ideas to a range of audiences. This makes them successful in whatever they choose to do, whether they take on research roles, consulting or government jobs, join graduate schemes with Top 100 employers like GSK, the Environment Agency, the NHS or Google, or enter further study to PhD level with leading universities around the world.

Where could your degree take you?



Tom Scott
MBiolSci Biological Sciences

Tom had the opportunity to work with BirdLife International, a global conservation charity protecting birds as part of his MBiolSci research project. This experience helped him to secure a graduate job with the organisation where Tom is now a Research Assistant.



Julie Zhou
BSc Biomedical Science
with an Industrial
Placement Year

Julie specialised in stem cells and cancer biology during her final year at Sheffield. This gave Julie a strong foundation in this area which helped her to secure her fully-funded PhD studentship with the Institute for Cancer Research.



Niall Bradshaw
BSc Biological Sciences
(formerly BSc Biology
with a Modern
Language)

Niall's final year research project helped him find his direction. Now with a PhD, Niall works for the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, saying "I draw upon what I learned in Sheffield pretty much every day."

Research

Each year our students enter academic research, working to solve big problems like cancer and antibiotic resistance, and saving the planet's biodiversity and climate. They do this within higher education, for public bodies, or in research and development at institutions around the world. Many students choose to pursue a career in industrial research in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology or consumer goods industries, for employers such as Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Reckitt.

Applying bioscience

Working in healthcare, in the NHS, for private healthcare providers or charities is another way that our graduates use their transferable skills and knowledge. Many organisations also demand graduates who understand science to work in roles such as communication, market research and business development.

If conservation or ecological consultancy is something that you're passionate about, the RSPB, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Wildlife Trusts are just some of the places where our graduates now work.

Beyond science

A good degree from a great university can take you far, whatever you want to do. We have graduates using their scientific minds in everything from law, human resources and marketing, to IT, banking and accountancy.

Further study

If you're interested in postgraduate study, we'll help you to consider your options so you can carry on a subject you're fascinated by, learn new skills, or change direction. Many of our graduates choose to progress onto a PhD addressing global challenges, or begin other postgraduate training in areas such as medicine, sustainability, genetic counselling or teaching.

Example job titles and employers

- ▶ **Analytical Scientist**, Allergan
- ▶ **Clinical Scientist (Genomics)**, Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- ▶ **Head of Incidence Response**, Department of Health and Social Care
- ▶ **Innovative Medicines and Early Development**, AstraZeneca
- ▶ **Merchandising Manager**, Aldi UK
- ▶ **Science and Engineering Fast Stream**, Civil Service
- ▶ **Science and Conservation Communications Officer**, Chester Zoo
- ▶ **Senior Ecologist**, Atkins
- ▶ **Senior Epidemiology Scientist**, UK Health Security Agency
- ▶ **Teacher**, Teach First
- ▶ **Global Change Biology PhD student**, Imperial College London

Opportunities to enhance your CV.

Graduation might seem a long way off but it's never too early to start thinking about how you can gain additional skills and experience to make yourself stand out from the crowd.



Isabel worked at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew for her placement year.

Our graduates are among the UK's top 10 most targeted by leading employers

High Fliers Research 2022

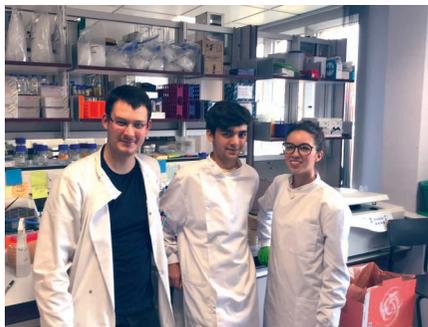
Work placements

Placements are a great way to gain experience and show employers that you're ready for the world of work.

You can spend a year on placement during any of our biosciences degrees. They allow you to test out a career path that you're considering, whether that's in the lab, or applying your scientific knowledge and transferable skills in industry or beyond. You'll get to experience a workplace for yourself, gain valuable new skills and you'll usually earn a salary while you're working.

Biosciences students have previously completed placements with large pharmaceutical companies like AstraZeneca, developed new food products for Mondelez International, joined the digital marketing team at Boots, and worked in conservation for organisations including Newquay Zoo and Atkins. Placement students often end up securing permanent jobs with their employer after graduation, too.

Research placements



Imran (centre) explored antimicrobial resistance in *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

If you're considering a research career, a great way to get additional lab experience is to join the Sheffield Undergraduate Research Experience scheme. This gives you a bursary to spend six weeks working with one of our world-class research groups over the summer break. You'll get first-hand experience designing and carrying out major research projects, and time to work out if a career in the lab is right for you.

Study abroad



Dina spent her year abroad studying at the National University of Singapore.

Spending time studying abroad is a great way to develop transferable skills. All of our courses offer international opportunities, from spending a full year studying abroad at another institution, to attending an international summer school on a topic of your choice.

Employers are quick to recognise the personal growth that students go through when they study abroad, and that graduates who took this option can offer a fresh perspective.

Jobs and volunteering



Students volunteering at Discovery Night as part of Science Week.

Outside of your studies, there are clubs and societies you can join, committee and student rep roles you can go up for, and lots of opportunities to volunteer with local organisations and gain extra skills and experience. Sheffield has plenty of part-time work opportunities too. It all adds to your CV.

Many biosciences students work with us to develop their science communication skills by running science sessions for local school children and events for the public. It's a great way to build your confidence and make new connections.

Get down to details.

Because we want to keep our carbon footprint down, there's a lot we haven't included here. Find us online to learn more.

www.sheffield.ac.uk/biosciences/undergraduate

www.sheffield.ac.uk/study/career

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