



# Career Opportunities with a Degree in ...

## Biomedical Science

### Your skills and the employment market

Skills developed by students can include include:

- Procedural and organisational skills
- Ability to select, organise and communicate information
- Analytical and problem solving
- Numeracy skills
- Ability to record and interpret data
- Ability to use sophisticated equipment for research purposes

<http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/employability/profilebiomedsci.pdf> is a two page outline of skills gained by biomedical science students over the course of their studies and states 'Major employment areas can include research in university, government, NHS or charity-funded laboratories; research and development for the pharmaceutical, diagnostics, medical devices and lab instrumentation industries; sales and marketing related to healthcare products; and teaching. Biomedical scientists may also be employed as scientific writers and editors and within banks and accountancy firms as financial and general managers.'

### Possible Career Opportunities

Lab Analyst	Clinical Trials	Bioinformatics
Patent Agent	Medical Sales	Forensic Scientist
Clinical Scientist	Quality Control / Assurance	Regulatory Affairs
Medical / Science Writer	Science Publishing	Research & Development

Note: Further qualifications may be needed for certain positions. This list is a sample representation of positions.

Up to 40% of graduate employment opportunities are open to graduates of all disciplines. In most cases, however you will need further postgraduate study or professional training.

Graduates can be employed in a variety of roles in industries including

- Veterinary service
- Health and Safety Executive
- University and forensic laboratories
- Pharmaceuticals and product manufacturers

### Sample Job Advertisements

Some jobs advertised recently that may suit students / graduates (these jobs are not currently available and are shown here for illustration purposes only).

**Biomedical Vacation Scholarships**, Wellcome Trust  
Applicants must be at a university within the UK or the Republic of Ireland and must meet criteria which includes: BSc students in the middle year of a basic science degree.

**Amgen Scholars Programme**. During the program, students work full-time on independent research projects under the guidance of a research scientist. Must be undergraduate students who have not completed their bachelor's and should be interested in pursuing a PhD. Academic areas incl. Biochemistry Bioengineering Bioinformatics, and more. Deadline 1st Feb.

A Science **Internship** / Placement with Abbott Ireland could involve working in Solution Preparation, In-Process Testing, Product Formulation, Documentation Review & Approval, R&D areas as well as general Laboratory work. Pursuing a third level qualification in Bachelors of Science degree in biochemistry, analytical chemistry, microbiology, biotechnology or pharmaceuticals.

**Patent Examiner**, European Patent Office. Daily work combines scientific expertise with analytical research and an eye for the legal aspects of intellectual property. Full university degree in physics, chemistry, engineering or natural sciences- relevant to the technical field in which you would like to work. Additional languages needed.

**Research Scientist**, Bioatlantis Ltd. To investigate the therapeutic potential of targeted seaweed bioactives contained in BioAtlantis Digestica products. BSc in a Life Sciences subject.

### Deciding on your Career

Choosing a career after university can extremely difficult and any long-term decisions should not be made lightly. While some people have already planned a career even before arriving at university, others will have only a vague idea of what they intend to do, or perhaps even no idea at all. Pick up our *Exploring your Options*, and *Researching Careers Information Online* FAQs and ask for details on completing an interest test.

There are also links to psychometric tests at:  
[www.nuigalway.ie/career-development-centre/servicesforstudents/explore/careerinteresttests/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/career-development-centre/servicesforstudents/explore/careerinteresttests/)

## Further study opportunities

For certain career choices, employers may look for candidates with further qualifications and training.

Some of the courses chosen by graduates in the past at NUI Galway ([www.nuigalway.ie/courses](http://www.nuigalway.ie/courses)) were:

- MSc Biomedical Science
- MSc Biotechnology
- MSc Occupational Health & Safety
- MA Health Promotion
- PhD
- MSc Neuropharmacology
- MSc Preventative Cardiology
- Master of Science (Regenerative Medicine)
- Professional Masters in Education
- Master of Science (Toxicology)
- MSc Software Design & Development
- HDip Business Studies

Other courses taken by graduates were:

- BSc Physiotherapy, London
- MSc Neuroscience, TCD
- MSc Tissue Engineering, UCD
- MSc Biomedical Diagnostics, DCU
- Pharmacy – Royal College of Surgeons
- Pharmacy – Aberdeen
- Graduate Entry Medicine, UCD / UL / UCC
- MSc Applied Sciences-Nutritional Sciences, UCC

[www.nuigalway.ie/conversion](http://www.nuigalway.ie/conversion) covers conversion courses at NUI Galway. The website [www.postgradireland.com](http://www.postgradireland.com) contains useful information on postgraduate courses in Ireland, [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) is an excellent site for researching opportunities in the UK and <http://europa.eu.int/ploteus> covers the EU. Read our FAQ on *Postgraduate Courses* for more.

## What past graduates have done

Here is a sample of job titles and employers occupied by graduates of Biomedical Science six months after graduation. This has been taken from our annual graduate survey.

- Lab Work, Biomarin
- Lab Technician, Abbott
- QA, Abbott
- BioBank Manager, Hospital Dublin
- Lab Analyst, Randox Laboratories
- Lab Technician, Allergan
- Development Technician, Mylan, Dublin
- Graduate Programme - QA, Genzyme
- Research and Development, Randox, Donegal
- Pharmaceutical Technician, Hospital Pharmacy, NY
- Field Assurance Co-ordinator, Medtronic
- Reg Affairs Associate, Pharmalink consulting
- Assistant Scientist, PPD, Athlone
- Medical Rep – Astrazeneca Pharmaceuticals
- Medical Transcriptionist – Galway Clinic

## Information resources available to you

Our Job Sector files contain a range of information about working in a specific sector – from job descriptions to professional associations. At the back of each (where possible) are advertised jobs so that you can look through requirements of previously advertised jobs.

We also have a range of reference books covering science including:

- Careers with a Science Degree
- Alternative Careers in Science
- Who wants to be a Scientist? Choosing Science as a career

There are resources to help with your job search including reference books on taking psychometric tests, going for interview, writing a CV or personal statement... and much more. Be sure and pick up our free booklets 'Your CV' and 'Interview Skills'.

Drop into our information room and we will be happy to assist you – there's no need to book an appointment to browse through our resources.

## Useful websites

We have found that the following websites contain relevant and interesting information on opportunities with a degree in Biomedical Science.

- [www.nuigalway.ie/careers](http://www.nuigalway.ie/careers)
- [www.nuigalway.ie/ncbes/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/ncbes/)
- [www.newscientistjobs.com/graduate/](http://www.newscientistjobs.com/graduate/)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk/options\\_biomedical\\_sciences.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_biomedical_sciences.htm)
- [www.sebiology.org/education/docs/Next\\_steps\\_web.pdf](http://www.sebiology.org/education/docs/Next_steps_web.pdf)
- [www.societyofbiology.org](http://www.societyofbiology.org)
- <http://biosciencecareers.wordpress.com/>
- [www.ibms.org/go/biomedical-science/careers-jobs/careers](http://www.ibms.org/go/biomedical-science/careers-jobs/careers)
- [www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/jobs/biomedical-science](http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/jobs/biomedical-science)
- <http://lifescience.ie/Biomedical-Scientist-Jobs>

There are many social media sites and groups helping people who are looking for work.

Search LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook to find people, companies and discussion groups to follow. Or use query sites such as [www.twitjobsearch.com](http://www.twitjobsearch.com), [www.google.ie/alerts](http://www.google.ie/alerts) to search for latest news items.

Read our *Using Social Media* FAQ for more tips.