School of Biomedical Sciences

My brilliant career
Fulfil your potential at the School of Biomedical Sciences

Students studying Biosciences at Newcastle University develop a wide range of skills, from the ability to critically interpret current scientific knowledge and laboratory skills to the less obvious skills of networking and creativity. These opportunities open up a huge number of potential careers for Biosciences graduates.

This guide will highlight a few of the many great career opportunities which our Biosciences degrees provide - whatever your key skills and interests are. We give examples of some of the careers our graduates are currently going into and how you can follow in their footsteps. The life science sector is very diverse and a lot of our graduates progress in careers which they hadn’t even considered before starting university. Read on to learn more about our graduates and where a Newcastle University Biosciences degree could take you!

Newcastle University has an award winning Careers Service.

45% of our graduates in 2015 went on to do further study.
50% of students who applied for postgraduate medicine in 2014 were offered a place.

85% of Pharmacology graduates in employment were in graduate-level jobs, with an average salary of £20,818.

Newcastle University has an award winning Careers Service.

86% of our Biomedical Sciences graduates in 2013 went into work, study or a combination of both. A significant proportion of our graduates gain employment as scientists, in either clinical or industrial settings.

66% of graduates in employment from our School in 2015 were in professional or managerial jobs with an average salary of £19,361.

Newcastle University Careers Service is ranked 4th globally.

93% of our graduates in 2015 went into work, study or a combination of both. A significant proportion of our graduates gain employment as scientists, in either clinical or industrial settings.

93% of our graduates in 2015 went on to do further study.
James

Why did you choose to study at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University? I wanted to be involved in science, but I wasn’t really sure where my interests lay. Pharmacology at Newcastle University provided the perfect balance of in-course modules and hands on experience; this was coupled with passionate and influential lecturers making a career in Pharmacology an obvious choice!

Do you do any extracurricular activities? An industrial placement at GSK in my third year secured the job I have today.

What is your current job? As a Process Technologist at GSK every day is different; one day I could be in the lab analysing/making our products, the next I could be in meetings looking at the future product pipeline or simply writing up reports of our findings in the office.

What are your hopes for the future? At the moment I am really enjoying working at GSK, however at some point in the future I would really like to pursue a PhD.

What is your top tip for success? Get involved in as many activities as possible. It really pays off to be proactive.

Brigitte

Why did you choose to study at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University? The mechanisms of how the human body operates has always really interested me and Biomedical Sciences appeal to me as a degree programme because it would give me a fantastic insight into the mechanisms which make up a person. Biomedical Sciences also offered a lot of flexibility as a course which appealed to me as I would be able to choose to study subjects which particularly interested me. Newcastle is a fantastic vibrant city with loads happening all of the time which was the perfect setting to be in as a student.

Do you do any extracurricular activities? During my second year, I decided to set up my own business which informed people about the science behind all of our favourite beauty products. Studying Biomedical Sciences gave me an understanding of how effective – or not – a lot of products are so I really wanted to share this information with a wider audience.
Sarah

Why did you choose to study at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University? 
I always had a particular passion for science throughout school, and it seemed to be the subject I excelled in. When choosing a degree, I was looking for a science-based course that was broad in terms of the content you would be taught, but with the option to specialise further if you wished. I attended visit days and loved the great atmosphere that the campus has, the first class facilities and I had the chance to witness what an amazing student city Newcastle is.

Do you do any extracurricular activities? 
During my time at university, I was a member of the Dance Society. This gave me the opportunity to continue something I love to do, keep fit and meet lots of new people who had the same interest as me, as well as attend fun, weekly socials.

What is your current position? 
I am currently in my first year of studying postgraduate Dentistry. This involves a mixture of lectures and seminars, where you learn about basic oral science, clinical skills and health education.

What are your hopes for the future? 
Once a qualified dentist, I would like to complete further training to become a Paediatric Consultant, allowing me to specialise in children’s dentistry.

What is your top tip for success? 
I would say make sure you work to the best of your ability and put as much effort as possible into everything you do!
Andrew

Why did you choose to study Biochemistry at Newcastle University? I had a keen interest in academic science and research as well as medicine. After finishing the Biochemistry module as part of the Biomedical Sciences degree I realised that I found this more interesting than other topics and that I wanted to specialise in this in the second year.

Do you do any extracurricular activities? I was a course rep for Biomedical Sciences in first year and the School Representative for years 2 and 3.

What is your current job? I am currently studying postgraduate medicine at Newcastle University.

What are your hopes for the future? I hope to qualify as a doctor in 2020 and continue to be involved in genetics research.

What is your top tip for success? Remember that there are thousands of students that are just as talented and experienced as yourself and you will need to do something different or work especially hard if you want to stand out and distinguish yourself.

Richard

Why did you choose to study at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University? I applied to Newcastle University through the PARTNERS programme, a decision I am exceptionally glad I made. Completion of the summer school not only allowed me to study Biomedical Sciences with a lower grade offer, but also get a real insight into the university and the School of Biomedical Sciences.

Do you do any extracurricular activities? I got involved with 5-a-side and 7-a-side football leagues, which I actually found really helped my concentration and stress levels. I also kept an eye open for interesting lectures going on in Newcastle, especially as a chance to learn about some science outside of my degree field!
Why did you choose to study at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University?
A combination of fantastic facilities, the city and being exposed to and taught cutting edge science by the leading researchers!

Do you do any extracurricular activities?
I was part of the BioSci society and Yoga society, they were perfect for de-stressing.

What is your current position? I am currently a PGCE student at Sunderland University. This comprises of lectures regarding teaching techniques and classroom management and hands on experience in school placements.

Hopes for the future? To be a secondary school science teacher; inspiring young people. I would love to be able to play a role in pastoral care within a school.

What is your top tip for success? Try hard to find a healthy balance between work, socialising and relaxing.

What is your current position? I currently work as one of the Teaching Technicians at the School of Biomedical Sciences, a job in which I am learning new skills and experiences every day. I have been previously employed as a Science Explainer at the Centre for Life, and went on to run the brand new ‘Experiment Zone’ as the Lab Technician there. I realised my passion for Science Communication and Teaching with the help of the optional 3rd year Science Communication module, and have been fortunate to gain experiences from performing live science demonstrations to hundreds of people, to facilitating the learning of hundreds of students.

What are your hopes for the future? To keep doing work I enjoy, stay working in science, and get involved more in Science Communication.

What is your top tip for success? For both your degree and your future career; enjoy it! Find what fascinates you about your degree and pursue it; studying will be that little bit easier and your interests may inspire you to go that one step further.
Christian

**Why did you choose to study at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University?** Learning about biological science and research made me interested in genetics, which helped me decide to apply to Biomedical Genetics as I found the subject particularly fascinating.

**Do you do any extracurricular activities?** I completed a summer research project at University College London and luckily was also able to organise one during term time at Newcastle during the beginning of first year, which cemented even more my commitment to the career path.

**What is your current job?** I’m currently undertaking a PhD in Cell and Molecular biology at Edinburgh University. I have real control over my working hours and what direction I want to take my experiments in. I really enjoy the investigative problem solving nature of the work and get the opportunity to apply knowledge I gained during my degree on a daily basis.

**What are your hopes for the future?** I hope one day to progress to becoming a post-doctoral researcher, eventually receiving a university fellowship and starting my own laboratory.

Verity

**Why did you choose to study at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University?** I chose Genetics because I was really interested in human biology at school and really wanted to understand the science behind the treatment of disease. I specialised in Pharmacogenetics because it is a huge up and coming area with huge developments happening all the time.

**Do you do any extracurricular activities?** I was a journalist at the student science magazine *react*. This really helped me to learn about what was going on around the North East science industry!
Kevin

Why did you choose to study at the School of Biomedical Sciences at Newcastle University? I originally joined Newcastle to complete a Biomedical Sciences degree with the aim of entering Dentistry after graduating. However, during the course of my studies it became apparent to me that this was not what I saw myself doing for the next 40 years. It was at this point I explored several careers, the other degree courses and transferred to Biochemistry as I felt this course was of greatest interest to myself.

Do you do any extracurricular activities? The optional Business module I undertook in third year, gave an insight into the processes involved in developing a business idea, developing it, and ultimately pitching it to a team of “investors”. This module is a change from the majority of modules you experience on a science course, but provides everyone with the option to experience different possibilities.

What is your current position? I am a trainee accountant on the KPMG graduate scheme. My degree had been developing key skills that I had never really considered. Ultimately this resulted in me receiving an offer to work with KPMG in Newcastle in the autumn after graduating.

What is your top tip for success? It is important to consider many options, as through the course of university many students are unsure as to what their future holds.

Biochemistry BSc

What is your current job? I was a Graduate Ambassador for the Faculty of Medical Sciences at Newcastle University where I got to travel around the country promoting medical sciences in schools and recruited new students straight after graduation. I am now currently on a management graduate scheme at John Lewis which I am thoroughly enjoying.

What are your hopes for the future? I hope to complete the graduate training programme and gain a managerial position within John Lewis, ideally in Newcastle.

What is your top tip for success? Get involved in as much as you can at university – this will help you have an idea of what you want to do when you leave and help build up loads of skills.

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Laboratory Assistant Scheme
You can apply to work as a Laboratory Assistant within one of our world-leading research institutes or be a member of our teaching labs during your second year.

Supernumerary Modules
Expand your academic experience by taking on an additional module during your studies - this could be learning a foreign language, preparing for your future with our career development module or interacting with an older generation.

Student Exchange
Studying overseas can be a life changing experience. Immersing yourself in another culture will help you learn more about yourself and help you develop your personal skills, as well as help you develop and deepen your understanding of the academic subject which you are studying.

Employability Ambassador
It might seem like there is a huge amount to do but not enough time - this is where the employability ambassador team comes in! They are current students working towards the end of their degrees who have experience in getting different types of work experience and give their time to giving advice to other students on how to manage their time and gain experience. This scheme is student-led and is also paid.
Professional Placements
A year of work experience after your second year can lead to outstanding job opportunities and offers. These year-long placements can be in a laboratory or office-based within the life science sector.

SOLAR
As a member of our SOLAR outreach team you will be able to take bioscience workshops into local schools to help educate and inspire a range of year groups. You will be able to develop your presenting skills, manage your bookings and get involved with the development of exciting new workshops.

{react} Magazine
React is a student led science magazine, which recruits in many different areas including journalism, editing, design and reporting. It’s a great way to develop your creative side whilst learning about all the world-leading developments in UK research and industry.

Summer Vacation Studentship
This scheme gives you the chance to experience first-hand what working in a research laboratory is really like and encourages you to consider a career in research after you graduate. Most placements receive funding from either external sources or from Newcastle University.

BioSci
Become a member of our Biomedical Sciences Society – develop your leadership skills by joining the committee and helping to organise a popular society with lots of events all year round.

Street Science
Street Science is all about bringing Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to everyone using hands on and interactive demonstrations. We use ketchup to explain air pressure and even Slinkys to explain how sound travels! Basically, we’re all about making science fun!

Inspiring Minds Mentoring Scheme
Bring science into local schools through our mentoring scheme, which will allow you to develop your teaching skills and help local school pupils aspire to a university education.
Other Opportunities
This is just a short taster of what our graduates are getting up to these days. There are many more science careers out there including graduate management schemes, genetics counsellor, medical sales representative, patent attorney, NHS biomedical scientist or lab technician.

Over the period of your study you will develop a high level of practical and subject specific skills as well as a wide range of highly marketable transferable skills, including critical reasoning, team work, oral presenting and writing skills. All of which are highly sought from any employer whether you choose a scientific or non-scientific career path.

If you want to find out more information, check out these websites:
www.ncl.ac.uk/biomed/about/alumni
www.ibms.org/go/biomedical-science/careers-jobs/careers
www.prospects.ac.uk

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www.ncl.ac.uk/biomed

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Browse www.ncl.ac.uk/biomed/