

# CAREERS IN BIOLOGY



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## BIOLOGY CAREERS

1. Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary and related careers
2. Scientific Research in academia and for industry (e.g. pharmaceuticals, biotechnology)
3. Medical and Scientific Communication
4. Environmental scientist including marine biologist, agriculturist, nature conservationist
5. Pharmacy
6. Food science/Nutrition
7. Civil Service/ Government/Policy/Charities
8. Medical Sales
9. Museums/Zoos/Wildlife Film-maker
10. Step to various career paths e.g. Finance, Business, Banking, Law, Education, Journalism

Biology-related degrees enable students to develop key skills, for example the ability to critically analyse data, research topics, develop valid methodology and use information to draw conclusions and evaluate.

## WHERE TO FIND JOB ADVERTS FOR BIOSCIENTISTS

- Scientific journals including New Scientist, Scientific American
- Society websites e.g. [www.biochemistry.org](http://www.biochemistry.org), [www.genetics.org](http://www.genetics.org), [www.nutritionandsociety.org](http://www.nutritionandsociety.org)

## BIOLOGY AND BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES DEGREES

Subjects to study at A Level:

Biology (many universities also require Chemistry at A Level.)

Wider reading:

Journals including New Scientist, Biological Science Review, Scientific American, Nature  
Books by popular Science authors including Genome, The Blind Watchmaker, Language of the Genes, Almost like a Whale.

Top Universities:

Most universities offer excellent Biology and other Bioscience courses. For the specialism you are interested in you can search for universities on the UCAS website and the Complete University Guide. According to the Complete University Guide, the top 10 UK Universities for Biological Sciences (December 2014) are:

1. Cambridge
2. Oxford
3. Imperial College London
4. York
5. Durham
6. Sheffield
7. Bristol
8. Bath
9. King's College London
10. Glasgow

(check UCAS website for entry requirements for these universities: [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com))

Useful websites:

- Society of Biology - [www.societyofbiology.org](http://www.societyofbiology.org)
- Nature - [www.nature.com](http://www.nature.com)



## GRADUATE PROSPECTS

According to the higher education careers service unit almost 60% of Biology graduates were employed six months after graduating in 2013. A further 24% continued their studies.

Useful websites for Biology and Life Science - related work placements and internships:

1. [www.nuffieldfoundation.org/students](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/students) - The Nuffield Foundation offers bursaries to support A Level students on work experience placements
2. [www.ucl.ac.uk/zebrafish-group/outreach](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/zebrafish-group/outreach) - University College London offers lab based workshops and work experience via its Zebrafish group
3. [www.csc.mrc.ac.uk/Students/TypesOfStudy/SummerStudent](http://www.csc.mrc.ac.uk/Students/TypesOfStudy/SummerStudent) - The MRC Clinical Sciences Centre in London offers work experience as well as tours of the facilities
4. [uk.gsk.com/en-gb/careers/school-students](http://uk.gsk.com/en-gb/careers/school-students) - GlaxoSmithKline offer experience in labs in institutions in London, Essex and Hertfordshire
5. [www.sanger.ac.uk/workstudy/placements](http://www.sanger.ac.uk/workstudy/placements) - The Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute offer 1 to 2 weeks work experience for students interested in scientific research
6. [www.ncl.ac.uk/marine/outreach/careers.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/marine/outreach/careers.htm) - The Dove Marine Laboratory, Newcastle University offers a number of work experience placements for 16-18 year olds
7. [www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry](http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry) - The EDA Year in Industry helps post A Level/Higher/Advanced Higher and undergraduate students find 9 to 12 month paid work placements in all areas of science
8. [www.stfc.ac.uk/home.aspx](http://www.stfc.ac.uk/home.aspx) - Science & Technology Facilities Council offer students lab work experience at Chilbolton Observatory, Daresbury Laboratory, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and The UK Astronomy Technology Centre (UKATC)

**You could also try contacting some organisations near you, for example:**

- natural history or science museum
- a wildlife conservation centre
- research lab in a university
- research or production lab in an industrial setting
- clinical lab in a hospital
- zoo
- medical, dentist or veterinary practice
- scientific writing company
- school

## CELEBRITIES WHO STUDIED BIOLOGY-RELATED SUBJECTS

**Francis Crick** (co-discoverer of the structure of DNA)

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**Christiaan Barnard** (performed first human heart transplant)

**Professor Alice Roberts** (PhD in Paleopathology, the study of disease in ancient human remains)

**Rachel Carson** (American marine biologist and conservationist whose book *Silent Spring* and other writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement)

**Charles Richard Drew** (research into blood plasma and set up first human blood bank)

**Mayim Bialik aka Dr. Amy Farrow Fowler** (PhD in Neuroscience and *Big Bang Theory* Actress)

**Sir Magdi Habib Yacoub** (established heart transplantation in UK and has performed more transplants than any other surgeon in the world)

**Sir Robert Winston** (pioneered preimplantation genetic diagnosis and IVF treatment)

**Lisa Kudrow** (developed an eight year research study into the likelihood of left-handed individuals developing cluster headaches...and starred in *'Friends'*)

**Richard Dawkins** (evolutionary biologist and author)

