

# Microbiology Careers

[www.sgm-microbiologycareers.org.uk](http://www.sgm-microbiologycareers.org.uk)

## Out of the Laboratory

There is a variety of opportunities outside of the laboratory such as science/technical writing, science administration and management, science communication, editing, technology transfer, patent law, teaching, sales and technical support. You are eligible for these positions because of the transferable skills acquired during your degree however you are competing against graduates from other scientific disciplines as well as your own. Hence, the competition for these posts can be fierce with more than one hundred people applying for a single job.

### Job advertisements

Jobs and other opportunities are advertised in newspapers, scientific magazines and journals and on websites.

<a href="http://www.jobs.guardian.co.uk">www.jobs.guardian.co.uk</a>	<i>The Guardian</i> (Tuesday)
<a href="http://www.timesonline.co.uk">www.timesonline.co.uk</a>	<i>The Times</i>
<a href="http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk">www.timeshighereducation.co.uk</a>	<i>THE</i> (Friday)
<a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk">www.telegraph.co.uk</a>	<i>The Telegraph</i>
<a href="http://www.independent.co.uk">www.independent.co.uk</a>	<i>The Independent</i>
<a href="http://www.newscientistjobs.com">www.newscientistjobs.com</a>	<i>New Scientist</i> (Thursday)
<a href="http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/">www.nature.com/naturejobs/</a>	<i>Nature</i> (Thursday)
<a href="http://www.jobs.ac.uk">www.jobs.ac.uk</a>	jobs in UK and overseas universities (including administration)
<a href="http://www.jobsinscience.com">www.jobsinscience.com</a>	Sci-Temps recruitment agency
<a href="http://www.monster.co.uk">www.monster.co.uk</a>	range of science jobs
<a href="http://www.totaljobs.com">www.totaljobs.com</a>	UK and international opportunities

### Careers information websites

There is a great deal of general careers information on the internet. It is mostly aimed at graduates, but can be useful if you are looking for ideas at any stage of your career. Some useful sites are listed below.

<a href="http://targetjobs.co.uk/careers_advice">targetjobs.co.uk/careers_advice</a>	general advice for graduates
<a href="http://www.prospects.ac.uk">www.prospects.ac.uk</a>	careers and jobs advice
<a href="http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org">sciencecareers.sciencemag.org</a>	advice, articles and links

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## Communicating science

If you want to communicate science you need to show an ability to write good English and explain complex topics in a straight-forward style. Entering one of the several national science writing competitions, open to students and young researchers, is an ideal way to hone your skills. An excellent guide to careers in science writing is available from the Association of British Science Writers ([www.absw.org.uk](http://www.absw.org.uk)). If you would like to break into science promotion, experience of organising public understanding of science events can be very useful. Many university departments are only too happy to exploit willing volunteers with good ideas at open days and National Science and Engineering Week events. Guidance on preparing talks for school students and the public is available from the SGM website ([www.sgm.ac.uk](http://www.sgm.ac.uk)).

## Scientific editing

If a career in scientific editing appeals to you, then you need to show a genuine interest in the field. Get involved in editing the departmental newsletter or perhaps set up a researchers' newsletter.

## Product and technical specialists

Product and technical specialists need to have detailed knowledge of particular laboratory techniques. They must also be good communicators and team workers. Employers will look for these skills in an application.

## In general

For most posts good administrative and office skills are essential and you should take every opportunity to get vital experience that will put you ahead of other candidates.

## Further information

- **Gradline, *Microbiology Today***, Vol 34, Aug 2007 ([www.sgm.ac.uk/pubs/micro\\_today/pdf/080708.pdf](http://www.sgm.ac.uk/pubs/micro_today/pdf/080708.pdf))  
Promoting science, promoting your career
- **Gradline, *Microbiology Today***, Vol 32, Nov 2005 ([www.sgm.ac.uk/pubs/micro\\_today/pdf/110511.pdf](http://www.sgm.ac.uk/pubs/micro_today/pdf/110511.pdf))  
Careers in scientific publishing
- **Inside Careers: Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys** ([www.insidecareers.co.uk/patent](http://www.insidecareers.co.uk/patent))
- **Training and Development Agency for Schools** ([www.tda.gov.uk](http://www.tda.gov.uk))
- **Society of Young Publishers** ([www.thesyp.org.uk/careers.php](http://www.thesyp.org.uk/careers.php))

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society for general  
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