

Research Careers

Opportunities for research careers are found in universities, research institutes, pharmaceutical companies, industrial research and development facilities and manufacturing sites, hospitals, public health laboratories and a growing number of small biotechnology companies. Many of the jobs are laboratory based, with positions ranging from technical support to research assistant, research fellow, principal investigator and group leader. There are also opportunities outside the laboratory in areas of data analysis (e.g. statisticians and bioinformaticians), health and safety practice and monitoring, and

administration and management of the overall running of the laboratories and financing of the research.

Some jobs in research specify that applicants must have a degree (BSc), but many require a PhD. To progress to more senior positions and ultimately be responsible for generating research ideas and leading a research group you will need a PhD qualification followed by postdoctoral work. After a few years in a postdoctoral position you will be expected to apply for independent funding for your work.

Networking

As a researcher you should take every opportunity to network with others in your field (especially those who have potential as employers). Presenting work at SGM conferences and other scientific meetings is an excellent way of promoting your abilities as a scientist. Conferences also provide the ideal informal venue for getting to know other researchers and academics. Publishing in journals is vital to a researcher and achieving one or two publications while a PhD student is a real bonus.

Microbiology Careers

www.sgm-microbiologycareers.org.uk

Job advertisements

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

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| www.jobs.guardian.co.uk | <i>The Guardian</i> (Tuesday) |
| www.timeshighereducation.co.uk | <i>THE</i> (Friday) |
| www.newscientistjobs.com | <i>New Scientist</i> (Thursday) |
| www.nature.com/naturejobs/ | <i>Nature</i> (Thursday) |
| www.jobs.ac.uk | academic jobs and studentships in the UK and overseas |
| www.jobsinscience.com | Sci-Temps recruitment agency website |
| www.monster.co.uk | range of science jobs |
| www.biologyjobs.com | range of job opportunities |
| www.srg.co.uk | Science Recruitment Group website |

If you want to try targeted speculative applications to academic researchers you can often find a summary of their research interests on their pages within their university/institute website. UK higher education and research site sensitive maps are available from www.scit.wlv.ac.uk/ukinfo/.

Sciencecareers (sciencecareers.sciencemag.org) is a very useful careers resource website for scientists, packed with advice, articles and links.

Further information

- **SGM Microbiology Careers Factsheet** – Options after graduation - information on PhD study including funding sources (www.sgm-microbiologycareers.org.uk)
- **Vitae** – researcher career development information (www.vitae.ac.uk) including the 'What do researchers do?' publication series
- **Research Councils UK** – research careers information (www.rcuk.ac.uk)
- **Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries** – research careers in the pharmaceutical industry (abpi-careers.org.uk)

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