

Microbiology Careers

www.sgm-microbiologycareers.org.uk

Applying to University to Study Microbiology

We share the earth with billions of microbes - bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa - they live in a wide range of habitats from hot springs to the ocean depths and, of course, the human body. Microbiologists study these microbes: where they occur, their survival strategies, how they affect us and how we can exploit them. Just as microbes affect wide ranging aspects of our lives (health, food and the environment), there is a wide range of job opportunities for microbiologists.

Qualifications and training are important if you want to be a microbiologist. Most students opt to study for a BSc degree at university and there are more than 50 universities across the UK

where you can earn a degree in microbiology. Some students opt for a more general biology or biological sciences course where they study a wider range of subjects in the first year before choosing their final degree pathway. Sandwich courses include up to a year of work experience - very useful to have when applying for jobs after graduation.

There are many sources of information and guidance on choosing the right university and degree course for you. An SGM factsheet listing current undergraduate microbiology courses is available from www.sgm-microbiologycareers.org.uk.

Course information

For detailed information on courses refer to copies of the relevant university/college prospectuses. The addresses for these are to be found in the general guides listed below. Universities have excellent websites with electronic prospectuses and UCAS information can also be found on-line at www.ucas.com.

Microbiology Careers

www.sgm-microbiologycareers.org.uk

Useful websites include:

- www.sgm-microbiologycareers.org.uk – careers in microbiology (including career profiles and links to information on other biosciences)
- www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/index.htm – education and learning information
- archive.planet-science.com/nextsteps – careers information and profiles

Useful books include:

- *Big Guide 2011*, UCAS application information
- *Choosing Your Degree Course and University* by Brian Heap
- *Heap 2010 Entry University Degree Course Offers*
- *How to Complete Your UCAS Application 2011 Entry*

Financing university education

Information about student support in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales is available from www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/index.htm

Useful publications include:

- *Guide to Student Money 2011*: How to manage your funds, fees and finances at university and college.
- *HotCourses, Undergraduate Courses and Funding Guide 2009*,
- *University Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries* by Brian Heap,
- *Student Support and Benefits Handbook 2010/2011*,

Most books should be available at local reference libraries. Suppliers include Trotman (www.trotman.co.uk) and UCAS Distribution (www.ucas.com).

Written and edited: Karen McGregor and Jane Westwell
© Copyright SGM January 2011

Design: Vicki Symington

Image: ThinkStock

SGM Careers, Marlborough House,
Basingstoke Road, Spencers Wood,
Reading RG7 1AG
t 0118 988 1807; f 0118 988 5656;
careers@sgm.ac.uk; www.sgm.ac.uk

Society for general
Microbiology