

Science: [So what? So everything]

Body part maker

Biomedical scientists, technicians and engineers assist doctors in caring for patients by providing them with the best scientific tools and resources to use during treatment. We may not be able to grow whole body parts yet, but there are many different jobs and careers available now in the health sciences. For more information and the full range of career options, go to:

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/hcsci.shtml or download a leaflet from: www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/PDFs/booklets/HCS.pdf or check out www.mrc.ac.uk/About/WorkingfortheMRC/Careeropportunities/index.htm

Some examples of jobs and career paths in biomedical science, technology and engineering include:

Are you experimental? Clinical support worker and assistant

In laboratories, the clinical support worker's job is to support biomedical scientists. The work can involve a variety of lab skills, such as making up chemical solutions and using computers to analyse data. There are no formal entry requirements for this career but a range of GCSEs may be helpful. Clinical support workers can also work towards NVQ level 2. For more information, visit the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) homepage: www.ibms.org

Incurably curious? Biomedical scientist

Biomedical scientists do laboratory tests during the diagnosis and treatment of disease. They can specialise in fields like clinical chemistry, medical microbiology and virology. Biomedical scientists must be registered with the Health Professions Council (HPC) to work in the NHS. You can become a biomedical scientist by taking an honours degree in biomedical science from a university accredited by the IBMS. For a PDF list of IBMS accredited programmes in biomedical science, including which programs go to:

www.ibms.org/includes/act_download.php?download=acc-course-hons-sept09.pdf

Love to think visually? Medical Illustrator

Medical illustrators provide clinical photography and graphic services to hospitals and clinics, as well as producing work for teaching textbooks and medical posters. To qualify as a medical illustrator, you will need a degree in medical illustration that is approved by the Institute of Medical Illustrators. For more information about courses available in medical illustration and clinical photography, go to the Institute of Medical Illustrators' website www.imi.org.uk. Graphic designers can also do a post graduate certificate in graphic design for health.

Like building and designing? Clinical engineer

A clinical engineer or bio-engineer designs equipment used in medicine or medical research. They may design laser equipment or electronic aids for patients with disabilities and investigate the mechanics of the human body. Clinical engineers require a good degree in a subject in the area they wish to work in, like life sciences, physics or engineering. For more information visit The Institution of Physics and Engineering in Medicine www.ipem.org.uk.



Tips for landing your dream job

Visit Connexions If you're 13-19 years old and thinking about what job to go into, you can speak to an adviser at your local Connexions Centre. You can also visit Connexions Direct's careers database Jobs4u at www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/. For adults, there are a range of websites that offer information about different jobs and careers including www.direct.gov.uk/careersadvice.

Research the relevant professional body or association There's lots of information about professional bodies at <http://www.everythingyouwantedtoknow.com/careers-advice/professional-bodies>.

Find a mentor If you know someone already working in the area you're interested in, meet to discuss what they love about their job, what it involves, and what qualifications and experience they had to land them the job.

Read relevant business or industry magazines and websites to help you understand more about where you'd like to work.

Network Making the most of your network of contacts, friends and family is one of the best ways to advance your career. It will help you to meet a range of people who may bear you in mind if a job vacancy comes up in their organisation.

For more information on careers and securing a job go to www.direct.gov.uk/careersadvice and Jobs4U at www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/. For information about careers in science, maths and engineering, go to www.futuremorph.org, www.mathscareers.org.uk, www.stemnet.org.uk.