



# CAREERS IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE

Fighting disease,  
protecting health

## BECOMING A BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST

Your guide to degrees  
and careers in  
biomedical science

 Institute of  
Biomedical Science

[WWW.IBMS.ORG](http://WWW.IBMS.ORG)

# WHY CHOOSE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE?

Biomedical science is one of the broadest areas of modern science and underpins much of modern medicine - from determining the blood requirements of critically ill patients to identifying outbreaks of infectious diseases to monitoring biomarkers in cancer.

Biomedical scientists are at the heart of multi-disciplinary teams in healthcare. They provide other professionals with vital scientific information, allowing them to make informed clinical decisions, ensure blood stocks are adequate at critical times, matching blood to patients, measuring chemicals to monitor patient condition, investigating disease by looking at tumour samples and identifying micro-organisms in the fight against infection.

You'll enjoy being a biomedical scientist if:

- you're interested in science and technology
- you enjoy practical, hands-on work
- you're curious, organised and have an eye for details
- you're self-motivated and have good communication skills
- you want to make a difference



## DID YOU KNOW?

BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS WORK IN HEALTHCARE LABORATORIES IN THE AREAS OF DIAGNOSIS, SCREENING, MONITORING AND RESEARCH. THEY DIAGNOSE DISEASES AND EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TREATMENT BY ANALYSING FLUIDS AND TISSUE SAMPLES FROM PATIENTS.

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SAMPLES ARE HANDLED BY BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS EACH YEAR. EVERYONE WILL USE THE SERVICES OF A BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST MORE THAN ONCE DURING THEIR LIFE.

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# STUDYING BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE?

## CHOOSING A BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE DEGREE

If you plan to work as a biomedical scientist you are advised to choose an IBMS accredited or HCPC approved degree that provides the academic knowledge and training you will need to begin your career in biomedical science.

You can study full-time or part-time, with Integrated and Sandwich degree courses offering placements in a laboratory as part of your training.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TYPES OF DEGREE ON OFFER AND TO ACCESS A LIST OF IBMS ACCREDITED BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE COURSES VISIT: [WWW.IBMS.ORG/ACCREDITED](http://WWW.IBMS.ORG/ACCREDITED)**

BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS NEED AN IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY TO DO THEIR JOB. ALL OF THESE AREAS ARE COVERED IN AN ACCREDITED IBMS DEGREE COURSE

## DID YOU KNOW?

GRADUATES WHO STUDY BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE HAVE ALSO GONE ON TO WORK IN LAW, ACCOUNTANCY, MEDICAL MARKETING, FINANCE, GOVERNMENT, JOURNALISM, COMMUNICATIONS AND MORE. FIND OUT MORE AT [WWW.IBMS.ORG/CAREERS](http://WWW.IBMS.ORG/CAREERS)

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED TO STUDY BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE AT UNIVERSITY?

You will need A levels (or equivalent) in Biology and/or Chemistry and GCSE (or equivalent) Maths.

**DEGREE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS VARY. VISIT: [UNISTATS.DIRECT.GOV.UK](http://UNISTATS.DIRECT.GOV.UK) FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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CLINICAL DIAGNOSES ARE MADE IN THEIR LABORATORY TESTS. SAMPLES TAKEN BY DOCTORS OR NURSES ARE USUALLY SENT TO A CLINICAL LABORATORY TO BE ANALYSED BY A CLINICAL SCIENTIST.



# BECOMING A BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST

## DID YOU KNOW?

'BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST'  
IS A LEGALLY PROTECTED TITLE.  
ANYONE USING THE TITLE  
MUST MEET HEALTH & CARE  
PROFESSIONS COUNCIL (HCPC)  
STANDARDS AND BE HCPC  
REGISTERED TO PROTECT  
PUBLIC SAFETY.



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**TO FIND MORE  
INFORMATION ABOUT  
HCPC REGISTRATION  
VISIT: [WWW.IBMS.ORG/  
HCPC](http://WWW.IBMS.ORG/HCPC)**

**TO FIND OUT ABOUT  
THE DIFFERENT TYPES  
OF IBMS DEGREES  
VISIT: [WWW.IBMS.ORG/  
DEGREES](http://WWW.IBMS.ORG/DEGREES)**

The quickest route to allowing eligibility to register as a biomedical scientist is to complete an IBMS accredited or HCPC approved degree, followed by an IBMS Registration Portfolio thereby being awarded a Certificate of Competence.

Graduates with an IBMS accredited degree, which includes a placement year where you complete an IBMS Registration Training Portfolio, can apply to the HCPC to be registered on graduation.

Graduates who have completed an IBMS accredited degree without a laboratory placement will need to complete an IBMS Registration Portfolio in an approved laboratory once they graduate.

Once you have completed the Registration Training Portfolio you can apply to the HCPC to be registered.

If your degree is not accredited by the IBMS, your degree can be assessed and any educational shortfall can be identified. You may need to take additional modules on an IBMS accredited degree.

Once you are HCPC registered you can start your career as a biomedical scientist.

# BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ROLES INCLUDE:

- ◆ BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST
- ◆ TEACHING
- ◆ DRUG TESTING
- ◆ INFECTION CONTROL
- ◆ CANCER SCREENING
- ◆ GOVERNMENT ADVISORY
- ◆ MANAGEMENT
- ◆ FORENSICS
- ◆ PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH
- ◆ BLOOD DONATION
- ◆ TRAINING
- ◆ FOOD SAFETY
- ◆ RESEARCH
- ◆ VETERINARY DIAGNOSIS
- ◆ ARMED FORCES
- ◆ JOURNALISM
- ◆ BREWING
- ◆ TRANSFUSION SERVICES
- ◆ RAPID RESPONSE LABS
- ◆ MONITORING DRUG THERAPIES
- ◆ POINT OF CARE TESTING



**PRIYA IS CURRENTLY STUDYING AN IBMS ACCREDITED BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE BSC AT UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER, LONDON**

“I was inspired to choose biomedical sciences for my degree as human biology has always been fascinating to me.

I love learning theory and then applying my knowledge to practical studies where I see the evidence behind the words. Investigating and connecting the dots to diagnose a patient is my favourite part of the course.”



# SKILLS FOR LIFE

The skills you will gain studying biomedical science are highly valued by employers and relevant to whichever career path you take:

- DATA ANALYSIS
- INVESTIGATION
- PROBLEM-SOLVING
- TIME MANAGEMENT
- NUMERACY
- CRITICAL THINKING
- OBSERVATION
- COMMUNICATION
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- TEAMWORK
- IT
- INTERPRETATION

## EMPLOYERS FOR BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS INCLUDE:

- NHS
- NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT
- ARMED FORCES
- THERMO FISHER
- SIEMENS
- NIKON
- ROCHE
- UNIVERSITIES
- PRO-LAB DIAGNOSTICS

**JAMIE CURRENTLY WORKS AS THE CLINICAL CHEMISTRY OPERATIONAL MANAGER AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL**

“A career in Biomedical Science is a great use of scientific knowledge, and can draw on skills from a number of areas. It presents opportunities to develop skills and knowledge in technology, medical science, IT, statistics, and more. Interpersonal skills are a crucial part of teamwork in the laboratory and across wider healthcare teams. Biomedical science makes a great contribution to patient care and is a fast evolving field, making it an interesting and rewarding career choice.”



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