

Your role as an academic advisor can be very influential in supporting students to consider their future. By asking questions such as 'what careers have you explored so far?' and 'what activities have you been involved with outside your degree?' and motivating students to take action, you can make a big difference.

This FAQ sheet aims to assist you in these conversations, to help you signpost students to Careers Service support and wider resources. Whilst arranged by year group, the suggested actions are fairly flexible across the student journey. For personalised actions, year by year, encourage students to try our "MyFuture" questionnaire and report at [manchester.ac.uk/myfuture](http://manchester.ac.uk/myfuture)

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with your Careers Consultant and refer students onto us as necessary.

### Year 1

1. Engage in a range of activities, such as societies, volunteering and/or part time jobs. Great for making friends, wellbeing, finances and future job applications... including industrial placements!
2. It's not too early to think about careers. Go along to careers workshops, fairs and employer events to explore ideas. Careers appointments are also available to students of any year.
3. Gain work experience to build skills and explore options. Students can arrange their own opportunities, like work shadowing, through contacts or writing to organisations speculatively.
4. Employers often look for good first year grades for internships, graduate jobs and postgraduate study.



### Final Year

1. Research and apply for graduate jobs from September. Schemes with large companies may have closing dates well before Christmas. There are many opportunities with small to medium sized businesses (including in science).
2. Research postgrad study options and funding from semester one - watch for application deadlines!
3. Attend career workshops, fairs and employer events on campus to find out about graduate roles and how to apply.
4. Apply for Manchester Graduate Talent (MGT) roles if planning to stay in Manchester next year.
5. Book a careers guidance appointment (in School or the Atrium) if feeling confused or want to discuss options, or for a job interview simulation.

### Year 2/Penultimate Year

1. Make gaining work experience a priority. Most formal internship schemes target second year students. Attend employer events and fairs on campus and apply from October for summer internships with larger organisations.
2. Investigate summer research studentships if interested in lab work or a future PhD (great option if not doing a placement year).
3. Gain insights into a career by applying for an alumni mentor through the Manchester Gold mentoring programme (semester one or two).
4. Attend events like Meet the Professionals, and Careers Service fairs and workshops, to explore options and make better applications.
5. Realise that some graduate schemes open in the summer before final year, so research is required!

### 3 Important Things

1. **A degree is not enough.** Encourage students to apply for work experience (e.g. part time jobs, internships, research studentships etc), voluntary work and/or be active in university societies.
2. Encourage students to start exploring and testing out career options from year 1 onwards.
3. Many students fail to get a job or internship because their job application is not good enough. Encourage students to get feedback before they submit applications.

### What services do we offer students?

**Careers Website** Comprehensive resource on exploring options, employability skills, finding jobs and further study. [manchester.ac.uk/careers](http://manchester.ac.uk/careers)

**Online vacancies** Thousands of graduate jobs, internships and placements advertised annually on CareersLink. [manchester.ac.uk/careerslink](http://manchester.ac.uk/careerslink)

**Work Experience** Placements and internships for students and graduates. We also offer some bursaries (check terms). [manchester.ac.uk/careers/experience](http://manchester.ac.uk/careers/experience)

#### One-to-One Appointments:

- **Career Guidance** to discuss options, career ideas (or lack of ideas), where to start and career planning
- **Applications Advice** for feedback on CV, cover letter and application form, and any brief queries
- **Interview Simulation** - a practice session for students about to have a job or video interview

**Appointments require pre-booking**  
[manchester.ac.uk/careers/services](http://manchester.ac.uk/careers/services)

**Social Media** Latest news on Careers blog, School-specific Facebook groups and Twitter  
[manchester.ac.uk/careers/services/socialmedia](http://manchester.ac.uk/careers/services/socialmedia)

**Employer Events, Careers Fairs, Workshops & Talks**  
[manchester.ac.uk/careers/events](http://manchester.ac.uk/careers/events)

**Mentoring** Manchester Gold pairs students with alumni and employers for expert advice and insights  
[manchester.ac.uk/careers/experience/mentoring](http://manchester.ac.uk/careers/experience/mentoring)

**Volunteering** Hundreds of opportunities advertised  
[manchester.ac.uk/volunteers](http://manchester.ac.uk/volunteers)

### What can Biological Sciences graduates do with their degree?

Here are some ideas based on what previous graduates have done. However this is not an exhaustive list as 70% of all graduate jobs are open to students with their degree.

#### Destinations of previous Biological Sciences graduates

**Types of jobs:** Trainee Clinical Scientist, Research Scientist, Med Sales Rep, Business Consultant, Medical Writer, Account Executive, Retail Management Trainee.

**Employers:** NHS, United Utilities, McCann, RedX Pharma, Adelphi, Lonza, ASDA, Havas Lynx, Teach First.

Students can find out more about options with their subject here: [www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree)

### Careers Contacts for Biological Sciences

**Suzanne Creeber, Careers Consultant**  
[suzanne.creeber@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:suzanne.creeber@manchester.ac.uk)  
(working days: Tue, Wed, Fri)

**Dr Sarah Ashworth, Careers Consultant**  
[sarah.ashworth@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.ashworth@manchester.ac.uk)  
(working days: Mon, Tue, Wed)

**Tel: 0161 275 2828**

**Internal SBS Employability Contact**  
**Anne Pinkerton, Education Support Manager**  
[employability.biosciences@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:employability.biosciences@manchester.ac.uk)

### Other useful web resources

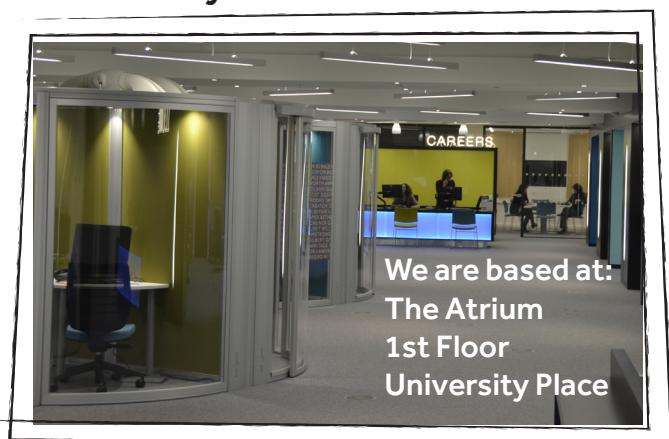
Graduate careers sites (vacancies, career options, sector profiles, postgrad study and more)

[prospects.ac.uk](http://prospects.ac.uk)  
[targetjobs.co.uk](http://targetjobs.co.uk)  
[insidecareers.co.uk](http://insidecareers.co.uk) (good for patents work)

Work experience, internships & placements  
[manchester.ac.uk/careers/experience](http://manchester.ac.uk/careers/experience)  
[step.org.uk](http://step.org.uk)  
[app.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/education/studentsupport/bursaries.aspx](http://app.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/education/studentsupport/bursaries.aspx)  
[www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/startingpoints](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/startingpoints) (for Work Experience in Biological Sciences handout)

Sector information  
[manchester.ac.uk/careers/whichcareer/](http://manchester.ac.uk/careers/whichcareer/)  
[careers.abpi.org.uk](http://careers.abpi.org.uk) (pharmaceutical industry)  
[healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://healthcareers.nhs.uk)

### Where can you find us?



We are based at:  
The Atrium  
1st Floor  
University Place