Careers in Microbiology

A degree in microbiology provides an increasing number of career possibilities, including work in hospitals, health protection laboratories, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, regulatory and environmental agencies, or the food industry (food manufacture, water quality, agriculture, cosmetics and toiletries etc.).

Upon completion graduates will have been trained to work with ACDPII Microbial Pathogens and therefore able to immediately pursue laboratory careers.

Graduate Profiles

Some of our recent graduates:

Narin Kirikyali

"Before applying to university I always knew I wanted to do a course related to bioscience; however, since there were a wide range of courses available, it was a difficult decision to make. I chose to study BSc Microbiology and have never regretted my decision. The University give students the freedom to pick the modules they wanted to specialise in any field of interest including modules from other schools. This freedom of choice has given me the opportunity to specialise in microbial genetics and a strong foundation of skills required to undertake scientific research at a more advanced level.

A few months after graduation in 2009, I was accepted to study for a PhD in three different universities! I've chosen to carry out a research project at Nottingham as I've found the University provides an excellent learning, teaching and working environment. Now I am specialising in food microbiology, working with cloning genes encoding enzymes from fungal sources into bacteria and yeast. Being in the final stages of completing my thesis, I'm excitedly looking forward to being able to do postdoctoral research in the next few years.

During my time at Sutton Bonington, the campus has grown with new facilities and buildings providing a greater environment to work and live. The University of Nottingham is a great place to study and can't wait to move up the career ladder here."

Cerith Jones

“Studying Microbiology atNottingham has given me an enthusiasm for the subject, and I continue to work in this field. Immediately after graduating I took a job as a Quality Assurance Microbiologist for GlaxoSmithKline.

After a year I began to apply for PhDs as I wanted to develop my scientific knowledge to a higher level. I successfully gained a place on a four-year MRes/PhD program at the Division of Cell and Molecular Biology, Imperial College London. I am currently in the second year of my PhD looking at secretion systems in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* having already obtained an MRes degree during my first year.

The BSc Microbiology course gave me a firm grounding, enabling me to work in industry and undertake scientific research at a postgraduate level. The skills I learned through the practical classes and the final year project are used daily in the lab, and the knowledge I acquired allows helps me to make progress on my course.

During my time at Nottingham, life at Sutton Bonington kept getting better every year as the campus grew. My favourite aspect of the campus was having everything in the same place; you could get to lectures really quickly and the academics were always close at hand for support. You could settle down and concentrate to work hard, but there was always a link via the hopper bus to the bright lights of Nottingham.

The BSc Microbiology course is an excellent course for anybody with an interest in this fi eld, and the Sutton Bonington Campus is a great place to study!”

Emily Harden

“ I graduated in Microbiology in 2002. During my time at Nottingham,I learnt many practical techniques that I have used routinely in my jobs since then. I spent a summer during my degree on a British Council placement in Ghana working in a Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. Part of the BSc course included a module in immunology which I found of particular interest and it is this combined with the microbiology aspect and the experience I gained in working in a diagnostic laboratory during the summer, that have shaped my career.

My first job after graduating was as a Research Scientist for The Binding Site (a specialist protein company which develops innovative immunodiagnostic assays for the global laboratory market). This role involved looking in depth at the diagnostic products that were produced, with the aim of improvement. During my time there I worked on a book that the company produces to aid in the interpretation of indirect immunofluorescence patterns that can be observed in patients with autoimmune diseases.

After a year I moved to St Helier Hospital in London to train as a Clinical Scientist in Immunology. This training also required me to study for a Masters degree in Medical Immunology which I successfully completed in 2006. Upon becoming HPC (Health Professions Council) registered as a Clinical Scientist, I was employed by St Mary's Hospital as a Grade B Clinical Scientist. This meant taking on a more senior role in the laboratory introducing new assays, supervising staff, training staff and undertaking various research projects.

I am now working for a private pathology company called The Doctors Laboratory where I am employed as Head of the Immunology Department. I manage the day to day running of the laboratory and plan for future projects involving the lab. I have 18 members of staff and the department offers a wide repertoire of serological diagnostic tests including tests to aid in the diagnosis of allergy, autoimmune disease, infection status, and immunity status."