Career options with a neuroscience degree

A degree in neuroscience can lead to a diverse range of employment and postgraduate study opportunities.

The British Neuroscience Association indicates that neuroscientists are working in research, clinical sciences, biotechnology, the pharmaceutical industry, medical devices industry, contract research organisations, regulatory affairs, policy and research administration, publishing and the media amongst others.

Neuroscientists work in diverse roles ranging from mental health, dementia, traumatic brain injury, brain tumours, spinal cord injury, stroke, marketing, law, retail and the media.

The destinations of our students supports this view and our alumni are working and studying in an eclectic range of organisations. In order to pursue some careers you may have to undertake further study and develop specialist skills and knowledge.

Recent graduate destinations
Alberta Health Authority: health sector research coordinator
Cancer Research UK: medical research charity – clinical trials assistant
Clinimed: pharmaceutical sector – marketing assistant
Deloitte: financial services-trainee accountant
Joseph Leckie Community College: education – science teacher
Lonza Biologics: pharmaceutical and biotechnology – research scientist
MRC Centre for Developmental Neurobiology: health research – laboratory technician
Public Health England: public sector – healthcare scientist
Roche: pharmaceutical industry – pharmacovigilance scientist
Scientific Demonstrator and Entertainer: television and publishing – scientific translator
SRG: scientific recruitment – recruitment consultant
Takeda: pharmaceutical industry – research scientist
Tesco: retail human resource manager

Postgraduate study
A wide range of postgraduate degree programmes have been undertaken by recent students such as:
- cognitive neuroscience
- hearing research
- electrical and electronic engineering
- clinical imaging
- appetite
- energy balance and metabolism
- neuroscience
- biomedical sciences
- neurotechnology
- physiotherapy
- psychology conversion

Most of the above opportunities were undertaken at The University of Nottingham, Kings College London, Imperial College London, University College London, University of Newcastle and The University of Bristol.

LinkedIn
Graduate destinations such as those noted above do not necessarily provide a complete picture of what students go on to do with their lives and careers.

LinkedIn can be very useful to track how careers have developed over time. You can also find out where former students work, what they do and how they got there. This information can be useful to you when making decisions about your career planning, networking and taking the important next step on graduation.

If you’re new to LinkedIn then there is a useful video on YouTube on how to get started. Search for “University of Nottingham Careers – getting started with LinkedIn”
What skills have I got?

In addition to your subject knowledge, your neuroscience degree and extracurricular activity equips you with key skills sought by employers: in all sectors and industries.

Here are just a few of the skills developed on your course: written and verbal skills, research, data analysis and interpretation skills, problem solving, time and personal management, presentation skills, data handling, statistics and project management.

How we can help

Our experts are here to help you at every stage of your University life. We offer a range of appointments, from CV reviews to more in-depth careers advice. Appointments can be booked online through My Career and are available throughout the year.

Visit www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/login and use your University username and password to sign in.

General advice

There are many places to look for information and listed below are some that we think you might find useful. It is not exhaustive and no doubt your own research will lead you to other web sites.

British Neuroscience Association
www.bna.org.uk/careers
Good starting point for all things Neuroscience

Medical Research Council
www.mrc.ac.uk
Improve human health through research. See their Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit

The Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry
www.abpi.org.uk
Lists major Pharmaceutical companies in UK

Further study
www.findaphd.com
www.findamasters.com
www.jobs.ac.uk – search for studentships on this site as well as roles within Further and Higher Education
www.researchgate.net – for researchers and research

MindLab
www.themindlab.co.uk
Neuromarketing and consumer behaviour

Alzheimer's Research UK
www.alzheimersresearchuk.org
Alzheimer's and related research

Dementia Research Centre
www.ucl.ac.uk/drc
Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery

Science and media communications
There are postgraduate courses available at universities across the UK which train you in science and media communication skills such as The University of Edinburgh, Imperial, The University of Sheffield and The University of the West of England.

Institute of Psychiatry Neuroscience research
www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn

The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust
www.thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk
An integrated Neurosciences Trust, providing one of the most comprehensive ranges of Neuroscience Services in the UK

We’re here to help, get in touch:

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Printed September 2016. Information correct at time of print.