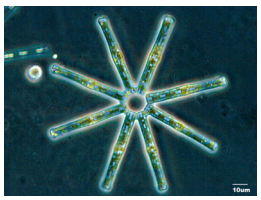
Employability Profile:

Biosciences



What is employability?

Employability can be defined as: “a set of achievements – skills, understandings and personal attributes that make graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations”. You may also hear employability skills referred to as transferable skills.

What is an employability profile?

An employability profile highlights the skills and qualities employers value and that you would be likely to gain during your degree.

How can I use it?

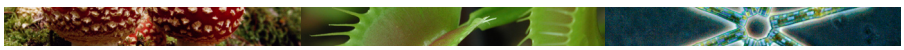
Studying a profile gives you the opportunity to tailor your CV or an application form to a specific job or simply consider the range of subject-specific and transferable skills you have developed, or could develop, during your degree.

What could I study in a bioscience degree?

In very general terms, bioscience disciplines investigate life processes and the inter-relationships of living organisms; this can involve study at a variety of levels from molecules to populations and cover a very wide range of subjects and disciplines:

- Wide ranging subjects such as biology, biological sciences and life sciences,
- Sub-disciplines that focus on particular groups of organisms, e.g. entomology
- Disciplines which emphasise specific technologies, interactions or systems, e.g. animal behaviour, biochemistry, biotechnology
- Disciplines which focus on the environment living organisms inhabit, e.g. ecology, environmental biology, marine biology
- Sub-disciplines directed towards particular applications, e.g. forensics, brewing and distilling
- Areas, such as genetics and molecular biology, where rapid change and development occur and where new knowledge and technologies spread swiftly.

Bioscience subjects can be areas of rapid change and development. If you intend to keep up-to-date with these rapidly changing areas you will need to consider how will to continue your self education and development after graduation.



What could I expect to gain from a bioscience degree?

You could develop a wide range of both subject specific and more generic employability skills. Discipline specific skills could include:

- A wide knowledge of facts, major concepts, principles and theories associated with your chosen discipline
- The ability to apply your subject knowledge and understanding to address both familiar and unfamiliar problems
- Technical skills, such as working with specialist equipment and learning a variety of techniques relevant to your discipline
- Knowledge of current developments in the biosciences, their applications, and the philosophical and ethical issues involved
- An appreciation of the need for ethical standards and professional codes of conduct

- An appreciation of risk assessment and relevant health and safety regulations

More generic skills and attributes could include:
- The ability to critically analyse and assess information and data, and their setting within a theoretical framework
- The ability to use appropriate practical and presentational techniques and methodologies including data analysis and the use of statistics to communicate results
- Practical skills including designing, planning, conducting and reporting on investigations through individual or group projects
- Numeracy, communication skills (oral and written) and IT skills
- Effective interpersonal and team working skills
- Being able to demonstrate an appreciation of the interdisciplinary nature of science and of the validity of different points of view
- The ability to self-manage and pursue professional development, think independently, set tasks and solve problems

What sort of job could I use these skills in?

Bioscience graduates are employed in a wide range of posts both related and unrelated to their degree subject.
They include accountant and other related financial professions, forensic scientist, higher education lecturer, immunologist, scientist, industrial research scientist, process development, research scientist, toxicologist and commercial, industrial and public sector management.
Bioscientists are employed by a wide range of organisations including the NHS, universities, schools, colleges, pharmaceutical companies, the government, newspapers/magazines and banks.

Where can I find out more about employability and bioscience related careers?

The Centre for Bioscience student webpage brings together employability resources from the Centre and links to careers and employability focussed websites: *www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/network/students.aspx*

You may find the following career and further study related websites useful:
- Prospects; *www.prospects.ac.uk*
- Windmills; *www.windmillsonline.co.uk*
- Find-a-PhD; *www.findaphd.com/* and find-a-masters; *www.findamasters.com*
- The Institute of Biology; *www.iob.org/general.asp?section=education_careers/education_iob/he*
- The Biosciences Federation: *www.bsf.ac.uk/careers/careershome.htm*