

Moving out of the laboratory

There is a variety of opportunities outside of the laboratory such as science/technical writing, science administration, science communication, editing, technology transfer, teaching, sales and technical support. However, the competition for these posts can be fierce with more than one hundred people applying for a single job.

Adverts

Jobs are usually advertised in *The Guardian*, *New Scientist*, *Nature* and *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. Many jobs are advertised on websites:

www.jobs.guardian.co.uk	<i>The Guardian</i>
www.newscientistjobs.com	<i>New Scientist</i>
www.nature.com/naturejobs/	<i>Nature</i>
www.timeshighereducation.co.uk	<i>THE</i>
www.timesonline.co.uk	<i>The Times</i>
www.jobs.ac.uk	jobs in UK & overseas universities (including administration)
www.telegraph.co.uk	<i>The Telegraph</i>
www.independent.co.uk	<i>The Independent</i>
www.jobsinscience.com	Sci-Temps recruitment agency website
www.monster.co.uk	good range of jobs
www.totaljobs.com	UK & international opportunities

Internet

There is a great deal of general careers information on the internet. It is mostly aimed at graduates, but can be useful if you are looking for ideas. Some useful sites are listed below:

www.get.hobsons.com	general advice for graduates
www.prospects.ac.uk	HECSU graduate information
sciencecareers.sciencemag.org	advice, articles and links
www.psci-com.ac.uk	science comms gateway

Communicating science

If you want to communicate science you need to show an ability to write good English and explain complex topics in a straight-forward style. Entering one of the several national science writing competitions, open to students and young researchers, is an ideal way to hone your skills. An excellent guide to careers in science writing is available from the Association of British Science Writers (www.absw.org.uk). If you would like to break into science promotion, experience of organising PUS (public understanding of science) events can be very useful. Many university departments are only too happy to exploit willing volunteers with good ideas at open days and National Science Week events. Guidance on organising events for school students and the public is available from the SGM website (www.sgm.ac.uk).

Scientific editing

If a career in scientific editing appeals to you, then you need to show a genuine interest in the field. Get involved in editing the departmental newsletter or perhaps set up a researchers' newsletter.

Product and technical specialists

Product and technical specialists need to have detailed knowledge of particular laboratory techniques. They must also be good communicators and team workers. Employers will look for these skills in an application.

In general

For most posts good administrative and office skills are essential and you should take every opportunity to get vital experience that will put you ahead of other candidates.

Further information

- ▶ Gradline, *Microbiology Today*, Vol 34, Aug 2007 (www.sgm.ac.uk/pubs/micro_today/pdf/080708.pdf) - Promoting science, promoting your career
- ▶ Gradline, *Microbiology Today*, Vol 32, Nov 2005 (www.sgm.ac.uk/pubs/micro_today/pdf/110511.pdf) - Careers in scientific publishing
- ▶ www.insidecareers.co.uk/patent - careers information from Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys
- ▶ www.tda.gov.uk - teaching in schools
- ▶ www.thesyp.org.uk/careers.php - Society of Young Publishers