

Opportunities for a laboratory based careers are found in universities, research institutes, industrial R&D facilities and manufacturing sites, hospitals, HPA laboratories and a growing number of small biotechnology companies.

Adverts

Jobs are mainly advertised in *The Guardian* (Tuesday), *New Scientist* (Thursday), *Nature* (Thursday) and *The Times Higher Education Supplement* (Friday). 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.jobs.ac.uk	academic jobs/ studentships
www.jobsinscience.com	Sci-Temps recruitment agency website
www.monster.co.uk	range of science jobs
www.biologyjobs.co.uk	range of job opportunities
www.srg.co.uk	Science Recruitment Group website

It is also worth looking at university websites for job vacancies. The UK higher education and research site sensitive maps are available from www.scit.wlv.ac.uk/ukinfo/

Sciencecareers (sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/uk/) is a very useful careers resource website for scientists, packed with advice, articles and links. If you want to try targeted speculative applications to academic researchers you can often find a summary of their research interests on their web pages.

Sources of Funding

The Medical Research Council offers grants, including the Career Development Award, to post-doctoral non-clinical scientists with 3 - 6 years experience. See www.mrc.ac.uk/Careers/

Postdoctoral researchers in biomedical sciences can apply for funding from the Wellcome Trust. Schemes include Advance Training Fellowships to enable postdoctoral researchers to obtain research training, either in a new discipline or in a new aspect of their own field, and Research Career Development Fellowships which provide the opportunity for postdoctoral scientists to become independent researchers. Information is available from www.wellcome.ac.uk/funding/

The Royal Society offers a number funding schemes to support postdoctoral researchers, including: Dorothy Hodgkin Fellowships designed to support the first step into independent research; UK Relocation Fellowships to help researchers who need to move to follow a partner who has changed place of work; and University Research Fellowships for postdoctoral scientists with 2-7 years research experience. Details are available from www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding/

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council offers BBSRC David Phillips Fellowships to scientists who have demonstrated high potential during their research training and initial years of postdoctoral research. For more details see www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/fellowships/

Networking

As a researcher you should take every opportunity to network with others in your field (especially those who have potential as employers). Presenting work at SGM meetings and other conferences is an excellent way of promoting your abilities as a scientist. Meetings also provide the ideal informal venue for getting to know other researchers and academics. Publishing in journals is vital to an academic research microbiologist and achieving one or two publications whilst a PhD student is a real bonus.