

We share the earth with billions of microbes - they live in a wide range of habitats from hot springs to the ocean depths and, of course, the human body. Microbiologists study microbes: where they occur, their survival strategies, how they affect us and how we can exploit them. Just as microbes affect our health, food and the environment there is a wide range of job opportunities for microbiologists.

Qualifications and training are important if you want to be a microbiologist. Most students opt to study for a BSc degree at university and there are more than 50 universities across the UK where you can study microbiology as your main option. Some students opt for a more general biology or biological sciences course where they study a wider range of subjects in the first year before choosing their final degree pathway. Sandwich courses include up to a year of work experience - very useful to have when applying for jobs after graduation.

There are many sources of information and guidance on choosing the right university and degree course. An SGM fact-sheet listing current undergraduate microbiology courses is also available from www.biocareers.org.uk.

Course information

For detailed information on courses refer to copies of the relevant university/college prospectuses. The addresses for these are to be found in the general guides listed below. Universities have excellent websites with electronic prospectuses and UCAS information can also be found on-line at www.ucas.com

Other useful websites include:

www.biocareers.org.uk - careers in microbiology (including career profiles and links to information on other biosciences)

www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/index.htm - education and learning information

www.planet-science.com/nextsteps - careers information and profiles

Useful books include:

- *Big Guide 2010*, ISBN 978-1-84361-103-5 (for UCAS applications)
- *Choosing your degree course and university* by Brian Heap, ISBN 978-1-84455-1571
- *Heap 2010 Entry University Degree Course Offers*, ISBN 978-1-84455-1828
- *How to Complete Your UCAS Application 2010 Entry*, ISBN 978-1-84455-194-1

Financing university education

Information about student support in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland & Wales is available from [www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigher Education/StudentFinance/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/index.htm)

Useful publications include:

- *Guide to Student Money 2010: How to manage your funds, fees and finances at university and college*. ISBN 978-1-84455-786-5
- *Hot Courses, Undergraduate Courses & Funding Guide 2009*, ISBN 978-1-90473-537-3
- *University Scholarships, Awards & Bursaries* by Brian Heap, ISBN 978-1-84455-183-5
- *The CRAC Guide to Student Finance: Balancing Your Books*, ISBN 978-0-95475-651-2
- *PUSH Guide to Student Money, Student Survival* ISBN 978-0-11702-833-3
- *Student Support and Benefits Handbook 2009/2010*, ISBN 978-1-90607-629-0

Most books should be available at local reference libraries. Suppliers include Trotman (www.trotman.co.uk) and UCAS Distribution (www.ucas.com).

