

Bio-scientists' Careers & Interview Tips

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Overview

- Career prospects & job opportunities
- Case study
- Interview tips
- Practice questions
- Find out more



Job Opportunities

- There is a national shortage of STEM professionals so there are plenty of graduate opportunities.
- In 2018, 2.4 million STEM related jobs went unfilled.
- STEM jobs are expected to grow at double the rate of other occupations creating 142,000 between now and 2023.
- 60% of graduate jobs are open to graduates from any degree
- BSc graduates earn 10% more than BA graduates on average



Medical Science Graduates

- Medical Science graduates are in high demand
- By 2024 we need 13% more Medical Science graduates in jobs
- Medical Sciences are constantly evolving and growing, as the demand grows, the need for specialists increases too!
- 75% of Medical Science graduates go straight into graduate level jobs
- With an average starting salary above £20,000
- Top salaries average around £70,0000



Case Study

The design and study drugs, how they exert their effect and how the body interacts with the drug

Works as a Bio-analyst and study coordinator for *Arcinova*

Polly coordinates the studies and clinical trials for *Arcinova* to ensure that the drugs they create are having their desired effect.



Polly – BSc Pharmacology (2017)

Interview Tips!

Interview Types

- Telephone interview
- Video interview
- Face-to-face interview
- Group interview
- Independence



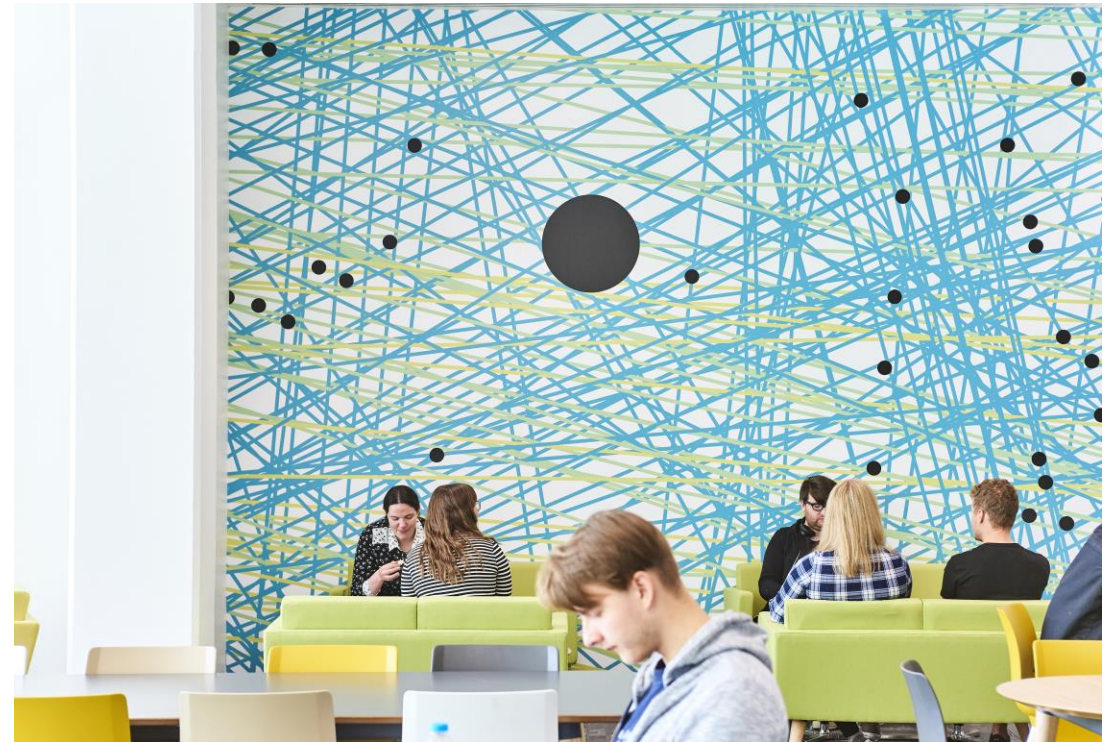
Interview Tests & Activities

- Situational Judgement Tests
- Numerical reasoning tests
- Verbal reasoning tests
- Psychometric tests
- Presentation
- Group activities



Competency Based Interviews

- A competency-based interview tests your suitability to the position you are being interviewed for.
- Generally, not as concerned with qualifications and specific experience at this stage.
- Commonly used for entry-level/graduate positions



Competency Based Interviews

Example questions:

- Tell me a time when...
- Can you think of an example of how/when
- Describe a way in which you...

The important thing is to have practical/specific examples

The more relevant the example the better



Give me an example of a challenge you faced in the workplace and tell me how you overcame it.

STARR Approach

S – Situation – set the scene, provide a context – where? When?

T – Task – describe the purpose – what needed to be done and why?

A – Action – explain what you did and how you did it

R – Result – share the outcome

R – Reflection – was this the right action? Would you have done anything differently?



Transferable Skills/Competencies

- Caring for others
- Changing environment – ability to adapt to this
- People orientated
- Analytical
- Independence
- Problem solving
- Passion for science
- Challenging – but rewarding work
- Teamwork
- Time management

Give an example of a situation where you solved a problem in a creative way.

Common Interview Mistakes

- Answering the question you want to be asked, not what you are asked.
- Talking too quickly
- Arriving late
- Focusing too much on yourself
- Not having any questions
- Not preparing enough!



Impact of Covid-19 on Interviews

Top Tips

- Practice and familiar yourself with the process.
- Sit near a window/check lighting
- Set up a professional looking space – beware of your background.
- Sit up straight with webcam at eye level.
- Dress smartly including your bottom half!
- Get in touch if you're worried

Pros

- Comfort of your own home.
- Keeping you and others safe.
- Less time consuming – zero travel

Cons

- Check internet connection.
- Might be unfamiliar – so practice, practice, practice!
- Potential for disturbances

General Tips & Advice

- **Be aware!**
- Research the company
- Research the industry
- Research the application process
- Be topical
- Have questions about the company at the ready



General Tips & Advice

- **Appearance!**
- Firm handshake
- Good body posture
- Warm smile
- Eye contact
- Smartly dressed
- Neat hairstyle/haircut



General Tips & Advice

- **Prepare**
- Practice, practice, practice
- Speak calmly and slowly
- Relax – you've got this!



Find out more help

- University careers' websites
- [Prospects.ac.uk](https://prospects.ac.uk)
- [Indeed.com](https://indeed.com)
- [Reed.co.uk](https://reed.co.uk)
- [Nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)
- [Glassdoor.co.uk](https://glassdoor.co.uk)



Any questions?