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 £70,000
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.
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
Bio-scientists Careers & Interview Tips

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!
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Find out more help

- University careers’ websites
- Prospects.ac.uk
- Indeed.com
- Reed.co.uk
- Nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
- Glassdoor.co.uk
Any questions?