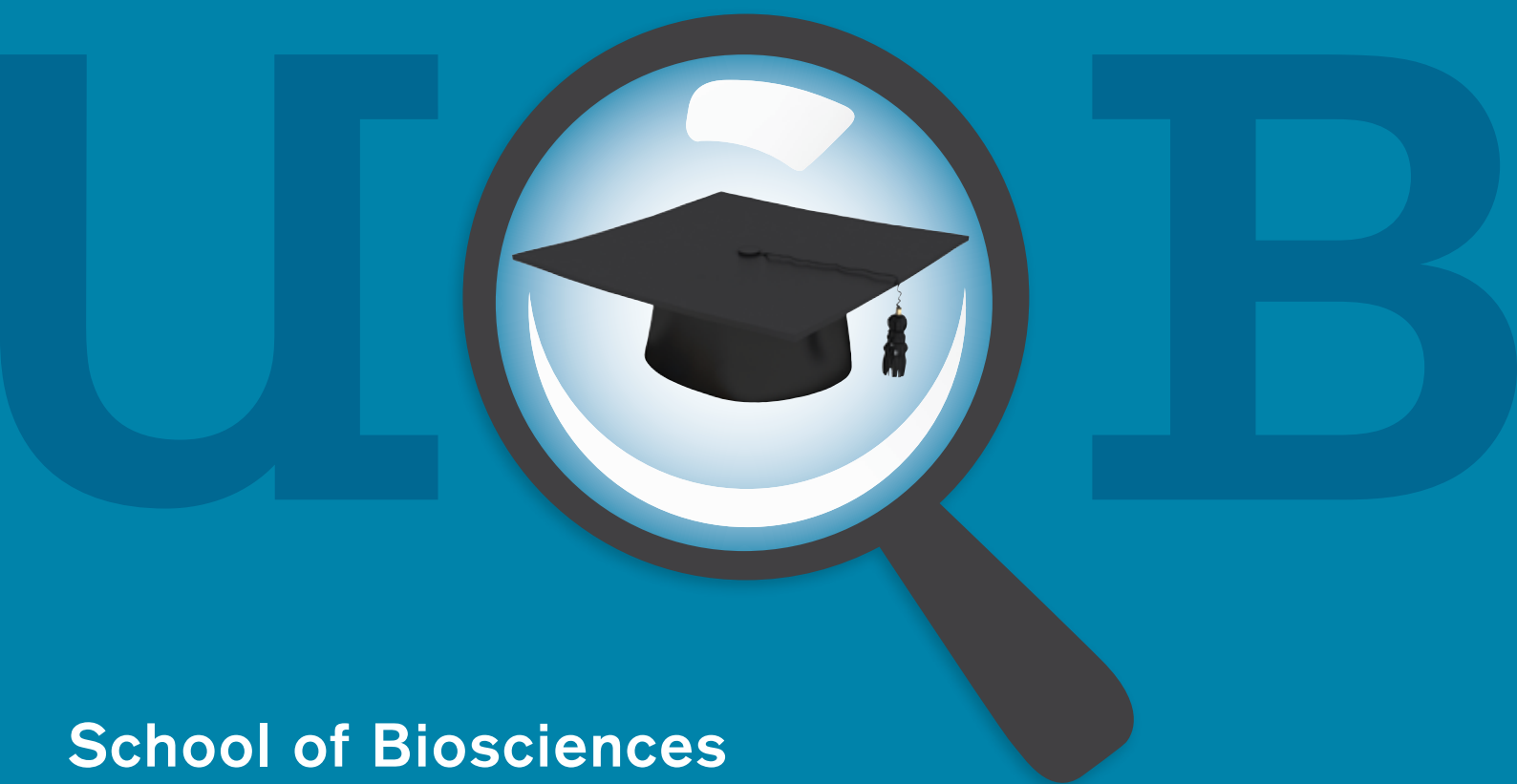


College of Life
and Environmental Sciences

What do Birmingham postgraduates do?



School of Biosciences

First destinations of postgraduates

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- Analysis of first employment destinations
for the College of Life and Environmental Sciences
 - Employability data for Biosciences postgraduates, 2009–13
 - Illustration of the range of occupations undertaken by our postgraduates

Foreword

I AM DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE 'WHAT DO BIRMINGHAM POSTGRADUATES DO?' WHICH LOOKS IN DETAIL AT THE FIRST DESTINATIONS OF OUR BIOSCIENCES POSTGRADUATES AND AT EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR ALL POSTGRADUATES WITHIN THE WIDER COLLEGE OF LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES.

In addition to providing accessible information on employment destinations of our postgraduates, this publication is also designed to give an insight into the kinds of employment sectors and jobs for which a postgraduate degree at Birmingham can prepare you.

Pursuing a postgraduate degree offers you the opportunity to explore your chosen area of interest in depth, as well as developing your knowledge and understanding in a subject area about which you are truly passionate. Beyond the transferable skills that you will take with you into the workplace, your postgraduate qualification will give you the chance to engage

in critical enquiry, to grow as a scholar and even to become an expert in your field.

Here, we show you how your postgraduate qualification can help you make that knowledge and expertise work for you after graduation. First of all, we give you an overview of the employability and first destinations of postgraduates across the wider College of Life and Environmental Sciences as a whole. Then for the school that is relevant to you (Biosciences; Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences; Psychology; or Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences) you will see a snapshot of the achievements of our postgraduates six months after graduation. All data is taken from the results of a 'Destinations of Leavers' survey issued to our postgraduates after this time.

You will be able to see, by department, how many of the postgraduates who replied to this survey successfully entered employment and/or further study within just six months, along with a range of the diverse and exciting

career opportunities that will be open to you after studying for a postgraduate degree in your chosen area.

Accompanying the data are case studies in which recent postgraduate alumni share their experiences of postgraduate study at Birmingham. Here, our alumni talk about the value inherent in postgraduate study, the knowledge and skills they developed during their degrees and where their qualifications have taken them since graduation.

I hope you find the information presented here useful and our alumni stories inspiring. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our campus soon.



Dr Ivan Sansom
Director of Education
College of Life and Environmental Sciences



College of Life and Environmental Sciences

Employability

The College of Life and Environmental Sciences spans an extensive breadth of disciplines, with expertise which aligns strongly with key international challenges, including lifelong health and wellbeing, food security, energy security and living with environmental change.

The College conducts internationally recognised teaching and research, hosts exciting initiatives in new fields of study, fosters effective collaboration between schools and has excellent research facilities.

The College uses training, fieldwork and its high quality facilities to enable students to gain generic and discipline-specific skills while studying exciting topics from ecology through to cancer research and forensic psychology.

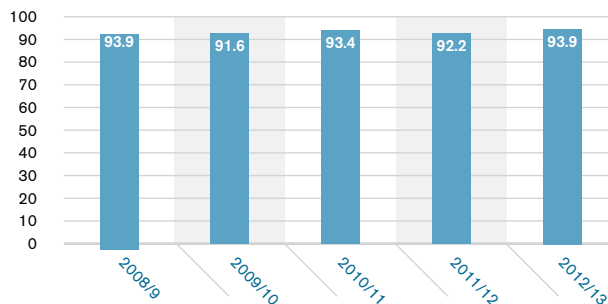
The College comprises four schools:

- School of Biosciences
- School Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences (GEES)
- School of Psychology
- School of Sport, Exercise and Rehabilitation Sciences

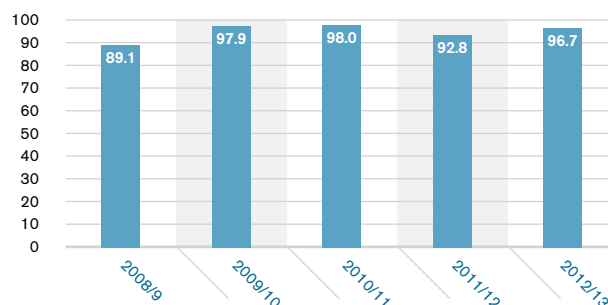
Over the last five years, 93% of taught postgraduates and 94.9% of research postgraduates from the College of Life and Environmental Sciences have been in work and/or further study just six months after graduating.

The two charts to the right show the breakdown of these statistics for each year, for taught postgraduate and research postgraduate respondents.

Percentage of Life and Environmental Sciences taught postgraduates in work and/or further study six months after graduation



Percentage of Life and Environmental Sciences taught postgraduates in work and/or further study six months after graduation



SOURCE: *Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions*, Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2008–13



'My studies in the School of Biosciences really helped me secure a successful career. Just two months after graduating from my Toxicology MSc, I worked for the

University's Medical School as a Research Associate in Reproductive Medicine. Before my current role, I also looked after the Birmingham sperm bank and I still hold an honorary Research Associate position at the University of Birmingham.

'My studies gave me a real taste of what

to expect in the real world and taught me to be organised and how to work well on my own and in a team. The University has high standards and the opportunity for work within your area is excellent. I really enjoyed my studies at Birmingham and made friends whom I am still in contact with and meet regularly. The campus is brilliant for studying as there are plenty of places to do your work in an environment that is conducive to learning.'

Qamar Walayat, MSc Toxicology
Qamar studied a BSc in Human Biology and an MSc in Toxicology, and is now a Clinical Embryologist working at the Birmingham Women's Hospital.



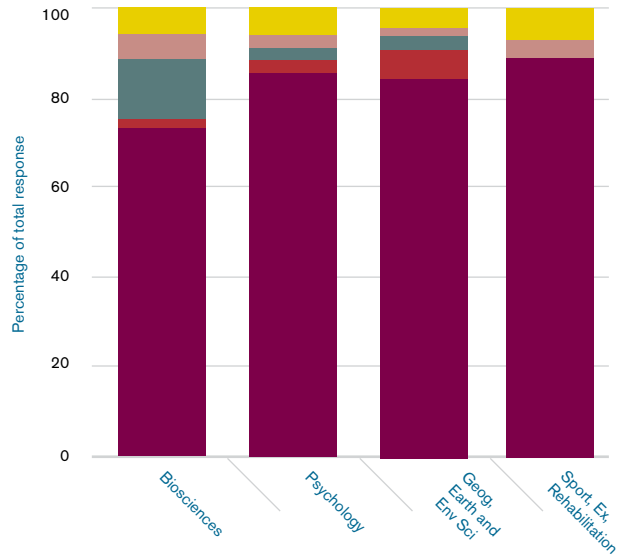
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College of Life and Environmental Sciences

Postgraduate destinations

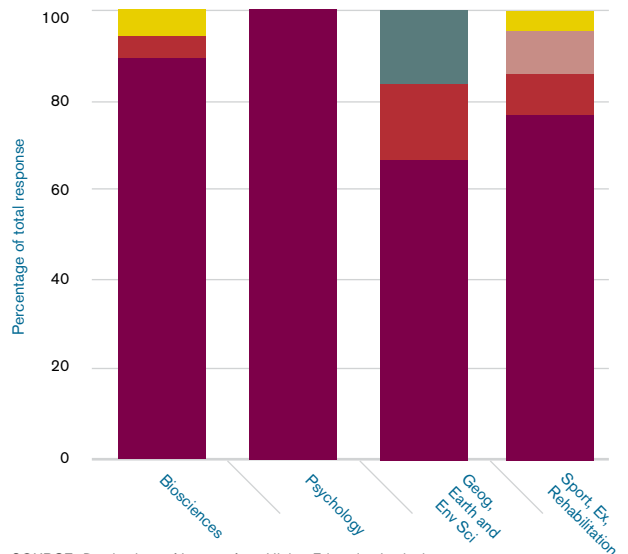
Taught postgraduate destinations

The chart to the right summarises the destinations of Life and Environmental Sciences postgraduates from the 2012/13 academic year, six months after graduation:



Research postgraduate destinations

The chart to the right summarises the destinations of Life and Environmental Sciences postgraduates from the 2012/13 academic year, six months after graduation:



SOURCE: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions, Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2008–13

'My studies gave me a lot of confidence and helped me grow into an adult. My qualifications helped me learn to be independent and self-driven, as well as helping me to stand out from the crowd.'

'My time at Birmingham was exciting, hard work and life-changing. I was previously very shy but I left Birmingham a confident and outgoing person. I made some lifelong friends and amazing memories of the best days of my life.'

'Birmingham offers the perfect combination of campus life very near to a large buzzing city. This gave me a sense of community and security without losing out on the big city life and experience. Birmingham has a very supportive student community in which I became actively involved, being in the Carnival Rag Society and in student elections.'

'I now hope to be part of the Olympic Equestrian team for Rio in 2016.'

Emma Punt, PhD Biosciences (Human Infertility), graduated 2002
Emma is now a self-employed McTimoney Equine and Canine Sports Therapist. After her PhD at Birmingham, she trained as an embryologist before retraining as a McTimoney Therapist.

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www.birmingham.ac.uk/biosciences

School of Biosciences

EMPLOYABILITY

Our Biosciences postgraduates are sought after in many areas of science, but also have the necessary skills for a whole range of non-science careers.

Highlights:

- Over the past five years, a total of 93.5% of taught postgraduate respondents were in work or further study six months after graduation
- Over the past five years, a total of 91% of research postgraduate respondents had successfully found work or further study six months after graduating

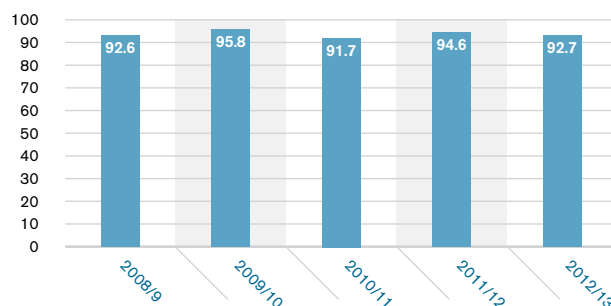
Bioscientists tend to have well developed analytical and problem-solving skills, as well as strong self-motivation skills which are highly valued by potential employers across a range of industries.

A large percentage of our Biosciences postgraduates choose to pursue a longer-term career in research. Other options include undertaking postgraduate training to become teachers, dentists or doctors.

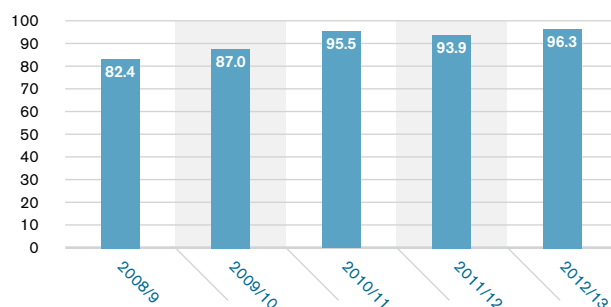
Birmingham's Biosciences graduates go on to careers in an extremely wide range of fields. Popular areas include pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, horticulture, food and drinks industries and medical technology. Others go on to work in health-related areas such as clinical research. Some graduates use their degree as a stepping stone to non-science careers in areas as diverse as finance and insurance, retail management and medical sales.

The charts to the right show results from Destinations of Leavers surveys for our Biosciences postgraduates over the past five years.

Percentage of taught postgraduate respondents in work and/or further study six months after graduation



Percentage of research postgraduate respondents in work and/or further study six months after graduation



SOURCE: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Institutions, Higher Education Statistics Agency, 2008–13



'The School of Biosciences at Birmingham is a high quality academic school, delivering sound scientific training. My advice to anyone considering doctoral

research would be to work hard but always keep a goal in sight, try to work on your own initiative and question everything.

David Jarrom, PhD Biosciences (Biochemistry/Structural Biology), graduated 2008
David is now a self-employed Appraisal Scientist (contractor for Welsh Medicines Partnership, NHS Wales).

'The best thing about my current job is the challenging work that, hopefully, makes a difference to the lives of NHS patients. Since leaving Birmingham, I have stayed more or less continually employed and progressed my career in jobs that I love, despite starting my career during a recession! My PhD provided me with thorough scientific training and the ability to use my wider skills in project and people management as well as critical analysis; these have since helped me to find work outside my research specialism.'



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School of Biosciences

RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS

Below is an overview of the kinds of employment sectors, organisations and professions that recent Biosciences postgraduates have entered, based on responses to 'Destinations of Leavers' surveys conducted six months after graduation.

Range of employment sectors

- Hospital activities
- Manufacturing
- Other scientific and technical activities
- Research and experimental development on biotechnology
- Research and experimental development on natural sciences and engineering
- Secondary education
- Social work activities
- Technical testing and analysis
- Tertiary education

Range of employers

- Bat Conservation Trust
- Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre
- Canal and River Trust
- Delphic HSE Solutions (health, safety and environmental management systems)
- Fine Energy
- Intertek (quality and safety services)
- Medpharm (specialist pharmaceutical development)

- National Health Service
- North Wales Wildlife Trust
- Reckitt Benckiser
- Roar Forensics
- University of Birmingham

Range of occupations

- Animal Behaviourist
- Bioscientist
- Drug Safety Associate
- Ecological Consultant
- Ecologist
- Environment Analyst
- Policy Adviser
- Postdoctoral Research Associate
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow
- Regulatory Toxicologist
- Research Scientist
- Specialist in Poison Information
- Teaching Assistant
- Trainee Forensic Scientist



'I graduated with a PhD at Birmingham in 2003, after which I spent several years at the University as a post-doc studying penguin physiology and behaviour.

I then obtained a lectureship at Roehampton in 2007. My PhD was essential to my becoming a university academic.

'I loved campus life at Birmingham; I spent a lot of my time there for work, sport and socialising. It was so vibrant, interesting, and intellectual, with a great mix of people.'

Lewis Halsey, PhD Biosciences (Zoology), graduated 2003

Lewis is now a Senior Lecturer in Comparative and Environmental Physiology at the University of Roehampton in London.

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