

# What do Birmingham postgraduates do?

School of Clinical  
and Experimental Medicine  
*First destinations of postgraduates*

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Analysis of first employment destinations of postgraduates  
from the College of Medical and Dental Sciences  
(six months after graduation)

- ▣ Analysis of postgraduate destinations by subject areas
- ▣ Summary of first destinations of postgraduates, 2009–2013
- ▣ Illustration of the range of occupations undertaken by postgraduates

# Foreword

I AM DELIGHTED TO INTRODUCE 'WHAT DO BIRMINGHAM POSTGRADUATES DO?' WHICH LOOKS IN DETAIL AT THE FIRST DESTINATIONS OF OUR CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE POSTGRADUATES AND AT EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR ALL POSTGRADUATES WITHIN THE WIDER COLLEGE OF MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCIENCES.



In addition to providing accessible information on employment destinations of Medical and Dental Sciences 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 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 deepen

your knowledge, to become an effective scientific researcher, or 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. For the School that is relevant to you, there will be a snapshot of the achievements of our postgraduates six months after graduation. All data is taken from the results of a 'Destination of Leavers' survey issued to our postgraduates after this time. You will be able to see 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 the College of Medical and Dental Sciences.

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.

Professor Steve Watson  
Head of Graduate School  
College of Medical and Dental Sciences



# College of Medical and Dental Sciences

THE COLLEGE OF MEDICAL AND DENTAL SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM IS A **MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION** IN MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES, DENTISTRY, NURSING AND PHARMACY.

Bringing together healthcare-related research and education, the College consists of the following five schools: Cancer Sciences; Clinical and Experimental Medicine; Dentistry; Health and Population Sciences; and Immunity and Infection.

The principal base of the College lies immediately between the main campus of the University and the new Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Other key NHS Trust buildings are also on the same campus including Birmingham Women's Hospital and The Barberry National Centre for Mental Health. The College is at the forefront of medical, pharmacy, health and dentistry research. We deliver world-leading research activities to develop and nurture excellence in basic and clinical science, and to ultimately improve human health.

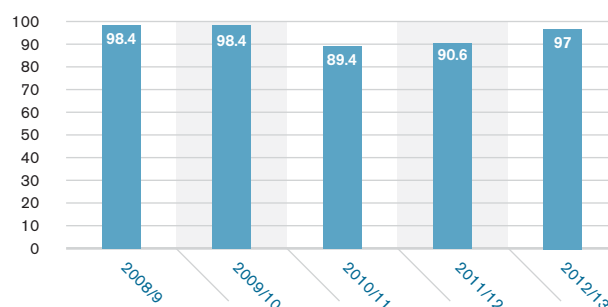
With over 800 researchers and in excess of £60 million research funding per year, our College represents a major international centre for biomedical research. Our programmes are delivered by some of the UK's most respected clinicians and health professionals, providing you with the best possible learning experience.

Over the last five years, 94.8% of taught postgraduates and 97.5% of research postgraduates from the College of Medical and Dental 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:

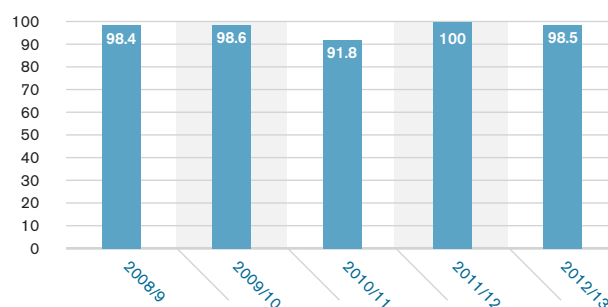
## Taught postgraduate destinations

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



## Research postgraduate destinations

Percentage of Medical and Dental Sciences research postgraduates in work and/or further study six months after graduation



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'I did my undergraduate degree at Birmingham, and many of my close friends from the course remained in Birmingham to do PhDs. Having a large network of friends and colleagues here made the transition very easy indeed.

'My advice for all prospective doctoral researchers is to talk to everyone in the lab and get honest opinions about its research and structure. Ask questions: Is your supervisor going to be supportive during all stages

of your PhD? Will you get opportunities to travel to conferences to present your data? Are you likely to produce quality research and get publications? I had a great supervisor and I felt very appreciative of all the support and opportunities she gave me.

'I loved lab-based research and am still very active in the lab now. Ten years after starting my PhD I am still enjoying lab work and the path onto which my PhD set me.'

**Antonia Pritchard, PhD Genetics, graduated 2005**

*Antonia's PhD focused on molecular genetic investigations of Alzheimer's disease.*

*She is now Senior Research Fellow at the University of Queensland.*

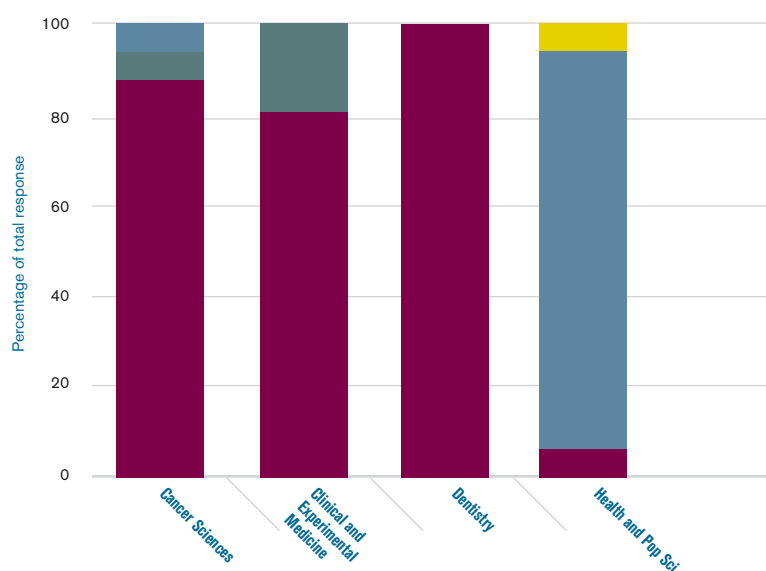
# College of Medical and Dental Sciences

The following charts summarise the destinations of Medical and Dental Sciences postgraduates from the 2012/13 academic year, six months after graduation:\*

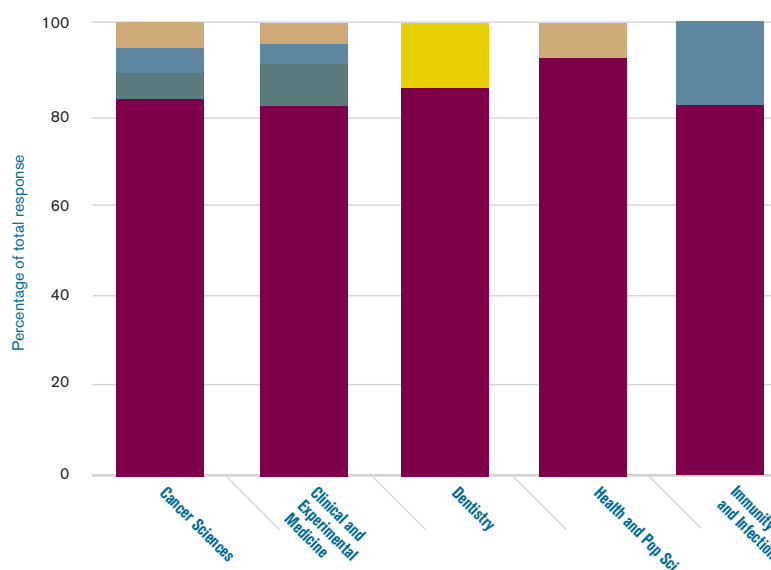
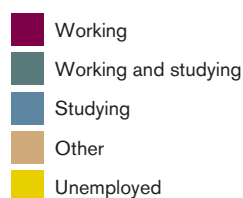
## Taught postgraduate destinations



No data available for Immunity and Infection.



## Research postgraduate destinations



'The MSc programme provided well-rounded training. I had the chance to learn from experts and wonderful teachers. Since completing the programme, I have had more confidence in working with patients with neuropsychiatric problems and my research skills have improved. My knowledge base in neuropsychiatry grew immensely during the MSc and I now have some basic tools to start my research project in a related area.'

'Birmingham is a great university, in a lovely city with lovely people!'

**Suraj Pal Singh, MSc Clinical Neuropsychiatry, part-time, graduated 2011** *Suraj is now undertaking residency training in the USA.*

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[www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgprofiles](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgprofiles)





# Clinical and Experimental Medicine

THE SCHOOL OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE IS COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY STAGE CAREER SCIENTISTS AND CLINICAL SCIENTISTS.

## Highlights

Over the past five years:

- ❑ 97.4% of taught postgraduate respondents from Clinical and Experimental Medicine successfully found work or further study within six months of graduation
- ❑ 100% of research postgraduate respondents from Clinical and Experimental Medicine were in work or further study six months after graduation

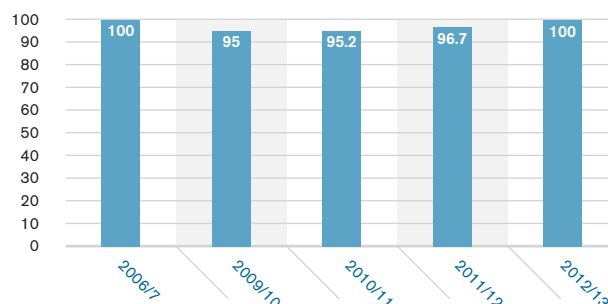
Many of our taught postgraduates study towards a research career in the *in vivo* sciences. Others are already experienced professionals looking to deepen their knowledge in areas such as clinical neuropsychiatry and forensic mental health studies in order to advance their careers.

A good number of our research postgraduates in Clinical and Experimental Medicine successfully secure postdoctoral research roles; others continue and progress in the clinical careers which informed their PhD studies.

The two charts to the right show results from Destination of Leavers surveys for our Clinical and Experimental Medicine postgraduates over the past five years:

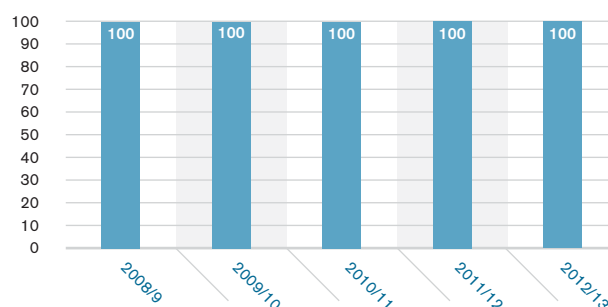
## Taught postgraduate destinations

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



## Research postgraduate destinations

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



## FIRST DESTINATIONS OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE POSTGRADUATES

Based on a survey conducted six months after graduation

### Range of employment sectors

- ❑ General medical practice activities
- ❑ Higher education
- ❑ Hospital activities
- ❑ Human health activities (other)
- ❑ Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies
- ❑ Medical and dental practice
- ❑ Research and experimental development in natural sciences and engineering
- ❑ Residential care activities
- ❑ Secondary education
- ❑ Scientific research and development
- ❑ Social work activities

### Range of employers

- ❑ Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust
- ❑ Birmingham Children's Hospital
- ❑ Celenty Ltd (R&D focused on human immune system)
- ❑ CRI (Social care charity)
- ❑ GlaxoSmithKline

- ❑ Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
- ❑ MRC National Institute for Medical Research
- ❑ NHS (general)
- ❑ Serascience (cancer diagnostics)
- ❑ Sheffield Teaching Hospital
- ❑ Somerset Care
- ❑ St Andrew's Healthcare
- ❑ University of Birmingham
- ❑ University of San Francisco

### Range of occupations

- ❑ Clinical Lecturer
- ❑ Clinical Nurse Specialist
- ❑ Clinical Scientist – Diabetic Medicine
- ❑ Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist
- ❑ Cyber Director
- ❑ Demonstrator in Psychology
- ❑ Doctor
- ❑ Drug Worker
- ❑ Operations Manager
- ❑ Paediatric Occupational Therapist

- ❑ Physician's Assistant
- ❑ Recovery Practitioner
- ❑ Research and Development Scientist
- ❑ Research Fellow
- ❑ Specialist Drug and Alcohol Nurse
- ❑ Specialist Registrar in Cardiology
- ❑ Substance Misuse Clinician
- ❑ Teacher

