

# What do Birmingham postgraduates do?

**School of Health  
and Population Sciences**  
*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, 2009–13
- 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 HEALTH AND POPULATION SCIENCES 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



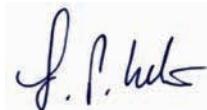
your knowledge, to become an effective scientific researcher, or become an expert in your field.

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 Barber 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.

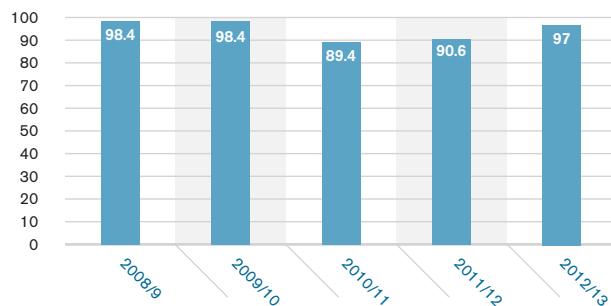
With over 800 researchers and in excess of £60 million research funding per year, our College represents a major international centre for biomedical research. Our programmes are delivered by some of the UK's most respected clinicians and health professionals, providing you with the best possible learning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

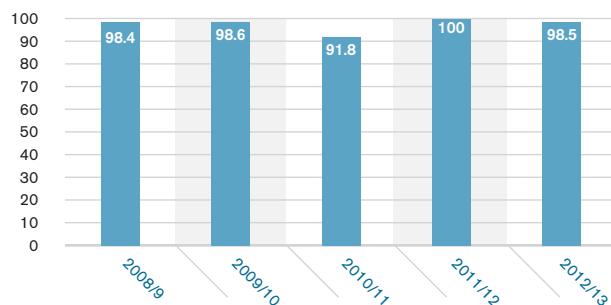
## Taught postgraduate destinations

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



'I have worked in pharmaceuticals for just over ten years. I undertook various commercial roles before becoming a Senior Medical Development Advisor at Novartis in 2009. One of the fastest-growing sectors in pharmaceuticals at present is Health Economics – this is due to the ever-growing presence of health technology assessment groups across the world, together with the need to drive efficient use of money spent in healthcare in the context of a struggling European economy. A Masters course in

Health Economics is a prerequisite for entrance into this discipline within pharmaceuticals. The University of Birmingham has a fantastic reputation in this field and a strong pedigree of producing postgraduates with the skills required for the profession.

'I now find that I am able to apply my newly acquired skills while continuing to develop every day I step into the office. The best part of the course was the flexibility for students who are also in full-time employment. The quality of material taught was excellent and relevant to employers

'I have enhanced my skills set enormously in this specific area. My MSc also helped to awaken my grey matter; making me excited to study again and passionate about the field. It has changed my life considerably, as I have relocated to a different part of the UK to pursue a new role as a Health Economics and Outcomes Research Manager for one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies.'

**Bill Malcolm, MSc Health Economics and Health Policy, part-time, graduated 2012. Bill is now Health Economics and Outcomes Research Manager at Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK.**

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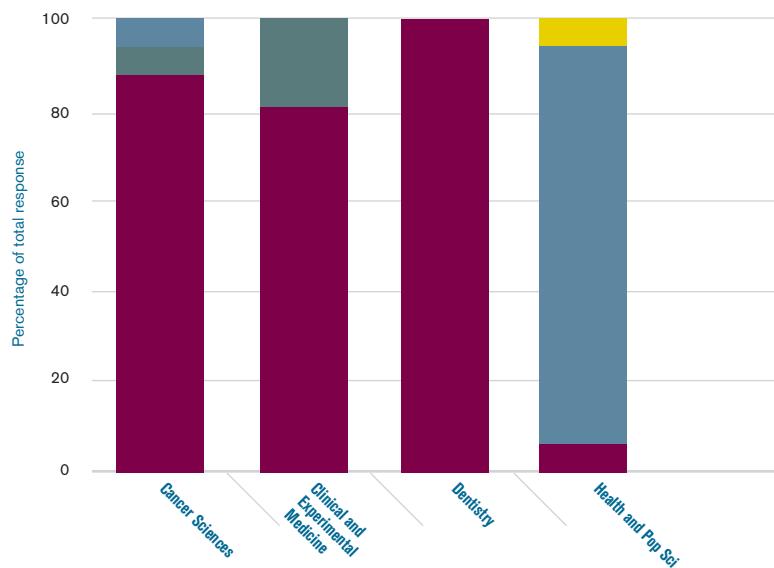
# College of Medical and Dental Sciences

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

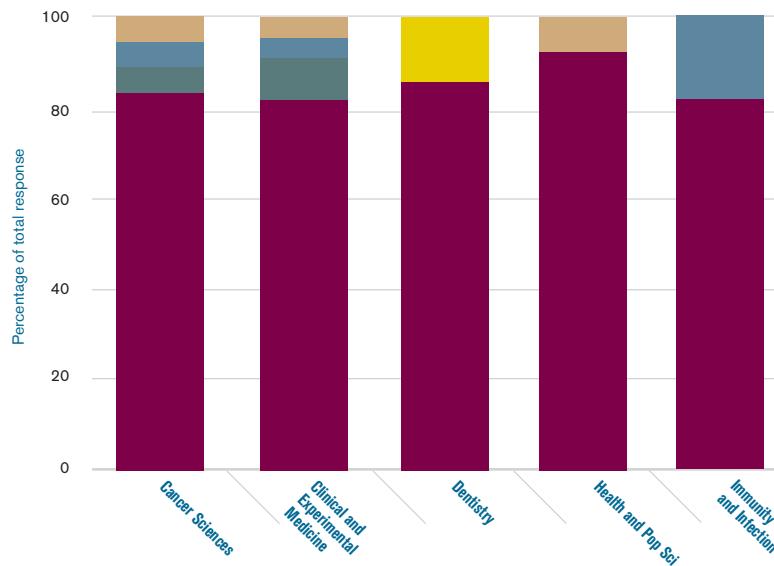
- Working
- Working and studying
- Studying
- Other
- Unemployed

No data available for Immunity and Infection.



## Research postgraduate destinations

- Working
- Working and studying
- Studying
- Other
- Unemployed



'There were so many good things about my time at Birmingham, including having a great supervisor, being part of an excellent school, having the opportunity to connect with fellow students and to access a wide range of facilities. The University was excellent and the staff I encountered were helpful and very supportive. The city is great, with lots to do socially and culturally, and I made firm and lasting friends.'

'Since finishing my PhD, I have secured a post as a lecturer and researcher in a leading Irish university. My role includes teaching, working with a range of health service users and professionals in mental health, and obtaining funding for research. I have been principal investigator in a funded randomised controlled trial on socialisation and mental health, and am now starting a funded project examining the palliative care needs of people with enduring mental health issues. My PhD from Birmingham provided a firm foundation upon which to build a future research and education career.'

**Ann Sheridan, PhD Nursing, graduated 2003**

*Ann undertook a PhD analysis of the activities of Irish psychiatric nurses 1950–2000. She is now a Lecturer at University College Dublin.*

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# Health and Population Sciences

IN HEALTH AND POPULATION SCIENCES, MANY OF OUR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATES ARE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND MANAGERS LOOKING TO ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND CAREER PROSPECTS WITH A POSTGRADUATE QUALIFICATION.

## Highlights

Over the past five years:

- 92% of taught postgraduate respondents from Health and Population Sciences Medicine successfully found work or further study within six months of graduation
- 92.7% of research postgraduate respondents from Health and Population Sciences were in work or further study six months after graduation

Our taught postgraduates study on a range of programmes in the areas of Health Research, Public Health, Health Economics, Occupational Health and Clinical Primary and Community Care, as well as Nursing.

While many of our programmes are designed for practising health care professionals, others, such as the Health Economics and Health Policy MSc, are also open to new graduates. After their undergraduate degree, many Nursing graduates enter work while continuing their studies at postgraduate level, in order to gain experience and knowledge to specialise in a particular area of their chosen profession. Nurses mostly took full-time posts in the NHS with specialisms including children, mental health, and forensic work; alternatives include working in private healthcare hospitals and in related healthcare positions.

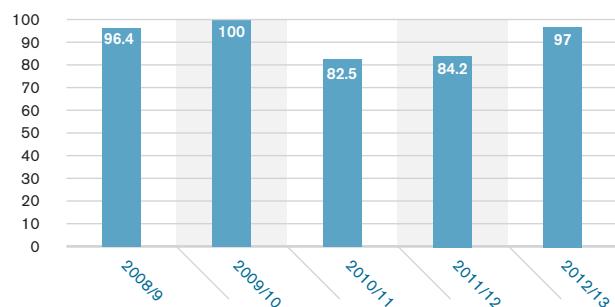
Our postgraduate researchers work in the areas of Biomedical Ethics, Health Economics, History of Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Primary Care Clinical Sciences, and Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics. We also run a PhD programme in Nursing. Postgraduate research provides research training for health professionals currently working in clinical areas who want to develop a health-related research component to their career.

The following charts show results from 'Destinations of leavers' surveys for postgraduates from these disciplines over the past five years:



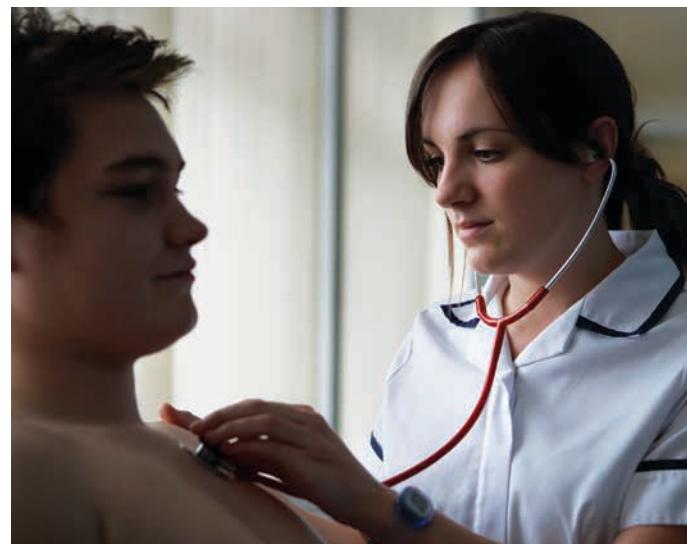
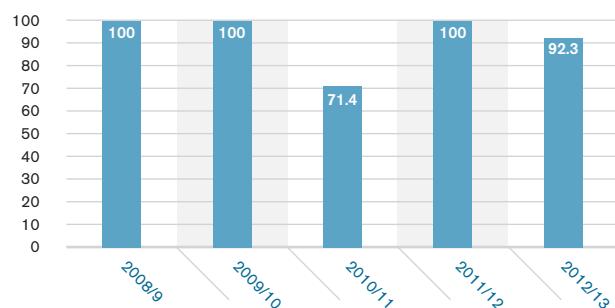
## Taught postgraduate destinations

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



# Health and Population Sciences

## FIRST DESTINATIONS OF HEALTH AND POPULATION SCIENCES POSTGRADUATES

Below is an overview of the kinds of employment sectors, organisations and professions that recent Cancer Sciences postgraduates have entered, based on a survey conducted six months after graduation.

### Range of employment sectors

- Activities of business and employers membership organisations
- Business and management consultancy activities
- Defence activities
- Higher education
- Hospital activities
- Human health activities (other)
- Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products
- Manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies
- Medical and dental practice
- Publishing
- Regulation of providing health care, education, cultural services and other social services
- Research and experimental development in natural sciences and engineering

### Range of employers

- Audley Medeconomics
- Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Central Midlands Commissioning Support Unit
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust
- Health Information and Quality Authority
- Lilly UK
- National Trust
- Novartis Pharmaceuticals
- Oxford Pharmagenesis

### Pfizer

- Prostate Cancer UK
- Royal Air Force
- Royal College of Physicians (London)
- South West London Cancer Research Network
- University of Birmingham
- University of Warwick
- Walsall Manor Hospital

### Range of occupations

- Consultant
- Editorial Team Leader
- General Practitioner
- Head of Financial Management and Planning
- Head of Speech and Language Therapy
- Health Economics and Outcomes Research Manager
- Health Economist
- Information Analyst
- Lecturer
- Manager for Quality and Information
- Medical Statistician
- Physical Trial Practitioner
- Plastic Surgeon
- Primary Care Scientist
- Project Leader
- Registrar in Public Health
- Research Fellow
- Speciality Registrar in Public Health
- Trainee in Occupational Health Medicine



'Completing the MPH at the University of Birmingham helped prepare me for my training as a Specialist Registrar in Public Health. It particularly helped me to prepare for the Faculty of Public

Health membership exams and to apply for and successfully acquire a research fellowship at the University of Birmingham through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

'Studying the MPH really changed my perception of the distribution and determinants of population health, which greatly helped develop my practice

of public health in the NHS. During and after the MPH, I definitely became more useful to my public health department and was able to undertake projects that I simply didn't have the expertise to do before I embarked on my studies. My dissertation and supervisors directly influenced my decision to apply for an NIHR doctoral fellowship which has been one of the best decisions of my professional career.'

'Epidemiology, biostatistics and research methods were taught particularly well. The teaching staff are extremely knowledgeable and also approachable. The course has both the required breadth and depth needed to gain a solid foundation in the theory of public health. Clinical epidemiology is a really fascinating



field which has made great strides in improving population health. I'm really grateful to be given the opportunity to work with academic experts who have enabled me to become an epidemiologist.'

**Shamil Haroon, Masters in Public Health (MPH), graduated 2010**

*Shamil is now Specialist Registrar in Public Health and PhD Candidate (Clinical Research Fellow) at the University of Birmingham.*

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