

# What do Birmingham postgraduates do?

## **School of Immunity and Infection** *First destinations of postgraduates*

---

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 IMMUNITY AND INFECTION 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.

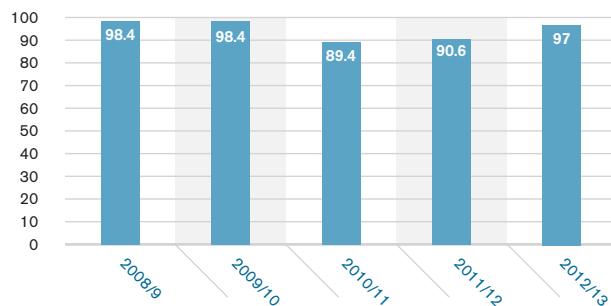
With over 800 researchers and in excess of £60 million research funding per year, our College represents a major international centre for biomedical research. Our programmes are delivered by some of the UK's most respected clinicians and health professionals, providing you with the best possible learning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

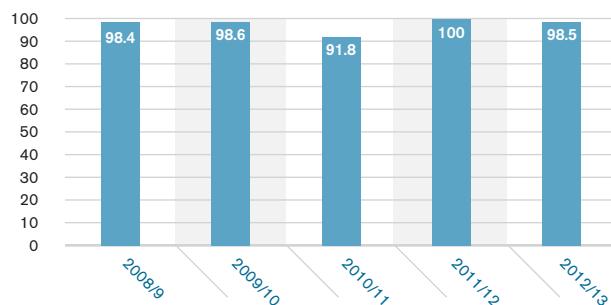
## Taught postgraduate destinations

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



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

'The best thing about studying for my PhD at Birmingham was that it gave me the opportunity to work with and meet some excellent people in a stimulating research community. I had no real expectations when I started, I just really wanted to get my PhD. What I ended up getting was a great education, a full life and lots of new experiences.'

'If you're thinking about a PhD in Immunity and Infection at Birmingham, my advice would be — do it! But think about what you want

**Jennifer Marshall, PhD Immunity and Infection, graduated 2009**

*Jennifer is now a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Birmingham.*

to study and make sure you really have an interest in it.'

'As a postdoctoral researcher, I continue to be actively involved in really interesting research. Since completing my PhD, I've also had the chance to present at a large international conference and have contributed to a growing body of work about how our bodies respond to and fight off salmonella infection. It was my PhD from Birmingham that gave me the skills to do all of those things.'

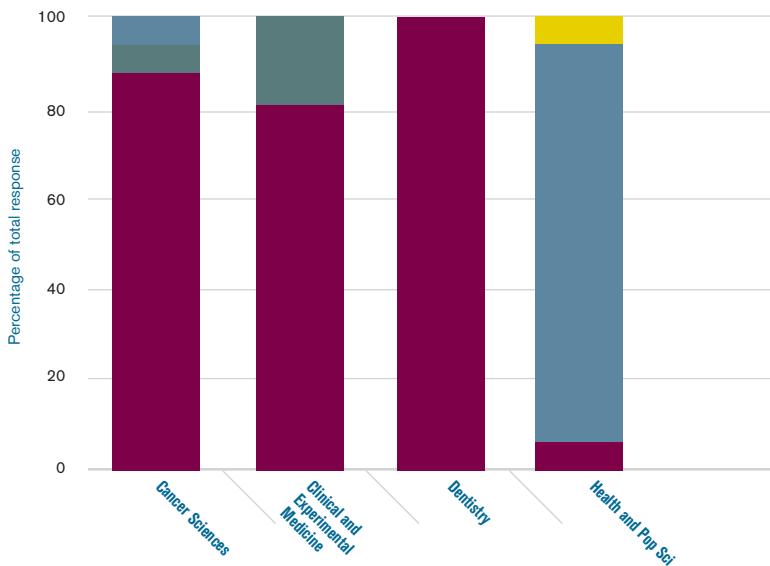
# College of Medical and Dental Sciences

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

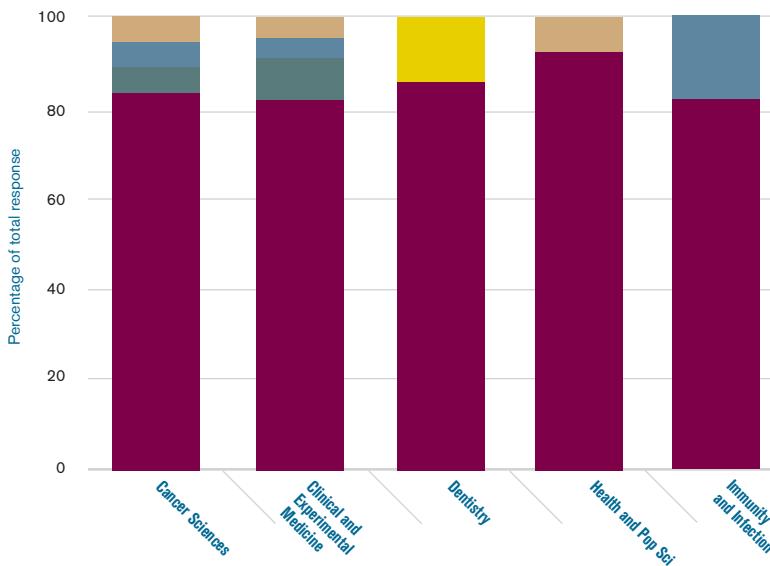
- Working
- Working and studying
- Studying
- Other
- Unemployed

No data available for Immunity and Infection.



## Research postgraduate destinations

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



'Birmingham is a great place to study. The facilities and people are excellent. In addition, you get the benefit of a city-based university set in its own beautiful campus. Having worked and studied at other universities, I would highly recommend Birmingham. The facilities were awesome and completely up to date. It was easy to access information in both electronic and personal

form — Birmingham is lucky to have so many experts who are happy to give anyone some of their time.'

'I now run my own research team and get a real kick out of getting my work published. I have become an expert in my area with recognition from colleagues in the UK, across Europe and beyond. My postgraduate degree from Birmingham gave me an excellent grounding in immunology, which I still use on a daily basis in my current role. I've even used some of my notes from Birmingham to help pass on

knowledge to the more junior staff in my team, to give them a greater understanding of our work.'

**Paul Webb, Doctoral Researcher in Immunology, graduated 2001**  
Paul is now Senior Research Scientist at the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

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

# Immunity and Infection

THE SCHOOL OF IMMUNITY OF INFECTION  
IS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED  
CENTRE FOR WORLD CLASS RESEARCH  
IN IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTION.

## Highlights

Over the past five years:

- 100% of taught postgraduate respondents from Immunity and Infection successfully found work or further study within six months of graduation
- 96.5% of research postgraduate respondents from Immunity and Infection were in work or further study six months after graduation

The taught postgraduate community in the School of Immunity and Infection comprises a number of students who come straight to postgraduate study from biomedical or life science degrees. The School also has many practising clinicians who undertake postgraduate study to extend their knowledge and understanding in an academically stimulating environment while maintaining and developing their clinical careers.

Similarly, we have a combination of clinical and non-clinical postgraduate researchers, many of whom successfully secure postdoctoral research positions after completing their PhDs; others choose careers in areas including medical writing, publishing, communications and clinical trials, or return to their clinical roles having made a key contribution to knowledge in their specialist area.

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

## FIRST DESTINATIONS OF IMMUNITY AND INFECTION 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

- Computer programming activities
- Higher education
- Hospital activities
- Human health activities
- Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products
- Publishing of books, periodicals and other publishing activities
- Raising of animals
- Research and experimental development in natural sciences and engineering
- Scientific research and development
- Sports activities

### Range of employers

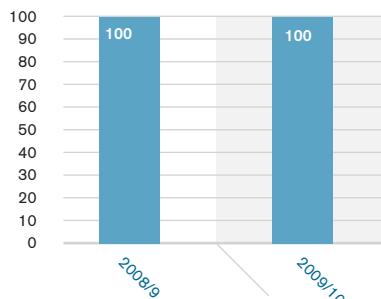
- 4-Front Research
- Adelphi Communications
- Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Health Protection Agency
- Hillingdon Borough Council
- Imperial College London
- Macmillan Publishers Ltd
- Medical Research Council
- South London Stroke Register
- Synexus Ltd (clinical trials)
- University of Birmingham
- University of Oxford
- West Midlands Regional Genetics Service
- Yale University

### Range of occupations

- Assistant Editor
- Chief Information Officer
- Clinical Data Co-ordinator
- Clinical Trials Assistant
- Consultant Nephrologist
- Lecturer in Medicine
- Medical Writer
- Neurology Registrar
- Postdoctoral Researcher
- Research Scientist
- Research Fellow
- Senior Technical Services Scientist
- Stroke Register Field Worker
- Teacher of Science

## Taught postgraduate destinations

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



(no data available for 2010/11, 2011/12 or 2012/13)

## Research postgraduate destinations

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

