Searching for Science Jobs

Introduction
If you’re a science student it can sometimes feel that there aren’t many graduate job opportunities available, despite regular reports in the media stating that STEM (science, technology engineering and maths) students are in demand. This information sheet will explain how to search for different kinds of scientific jobs and how to find opportunities that aren’t widely advertised.

It’s important to remember that scientific organisations are all different and all have their own policies and practices when it comes to recruitment. Some may see recruitment fairs and generalist recruitment websites as appropriate for their needs, but many won’t, and will seek out more specialist recruitment sources or recruit from within their organisation as far as possible, eg from internships, year in industry placements or insight events.

The first part of this sheet will give you some ideas of where to look for advertised opportunities (jobs and internships), whilst the second part will look at more creative ways to find and generate opportunities.

Graduate recruitment websites
General graduate recruitment websites are worth checking if they include scientific opportunities. However, these may be combined with engineering and technology vacancies so you will need to search carefully. There are lots of sites (see our information sheet on Finding Graduate Job Vacancies), but some examples include:

- www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway - University of York Careers vacancy website
- www.prospects.ac.uk – national graduate careers website
- www.targetjobs.co.uk – Target Jobs
- www.milkround.com – Milkround
- http://graduate.monster.co.uk – Monster
- www.jobs.ac.uk – academic and research related jobs

If you are looking for vacancies in specific UK regions you may find some scientific vacancies on regional graduate websites. www.yorkshiregraduates.co.uk covers the Yorkshire region, but you can find a list of websites for other regions at www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/where/regional.

Specialist scientific job websites
These can offer a more targeted search and you may find a wider range of opportunities, including jobs and graduate schemes with large and small and medium sized companies (SMEs). Examples include:

- http://brightrecruits.com – Institute of Physics vacancy service
- http://jobs.rsc.org – Royal Society of Chemistry job vacancies
- www.societyofbiology.org/careers-and-cpd/careers/employment/searching-for-jobs - links to Biology specific vacancy sites
- http://www.cogentskills.com – skills specialist for the science industry – website lists vacancies and placements mainly for biology and chemistry students/graduates
- www.gradcracker.com – specialist website for science, technology and engineering, including environmental
Some websites include vacancies from a range of other sources, for example:

- www.countryide-jobs.com – environmental and ecology opportunities
- www.indeed.co.uk – search by job, company, keyword and region

Use Careers’ Job sector pages, information sheets www.york.ac.uk/careers/infosheets (Considering series) and the Prospects careers website www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm to research further specific job search resources.

Recruitment Agencies

Some employers will not advertise vacancies externally, but use specialist scientific recruitment agencies to help them to fill both permanent and short-term vacancies. They prefer to do this because the agency will screen candidates for them and select those with relevant skills and experience. There is no charge to candidates for using these services and they can be a useful addition to your job search resources and may also be able to offer you career and application advice. However, there is no guarantee that they will be able to find a role that matches your skills and experience. You can search for specialist agencies by using websites such as www.agentycentral.co.uk, but some well-known scientific recruitment agencies include:

- Lab Support www.labsupport.co.uk
- SRG www.srg.co.uk
- Matchtech www.matchtech.com
- SCI www.sci-search.com
- CK Science http://ckscience.co.uk

Speculative approaches

Remember that many vacancies are not advertised - some employers prefer to recruit through word of mouth or speculative approaches. Others may advertise opportunities, but only on their own websites or through more targeted channels such as social media, where they will find an audience who are already showing an interest in their work and organisation.

To find out about less well-known companies, particularly SMEs, use online business directories such as www.yell.com to help you to identify specific types of organisation by location. If you’re looking for research related organisations check relevant research council websites www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/areas and universities for associated research centres or www.airto.co.uk for independent research and technology organisations.

Many scientific organisations are located on science and technology parks, so try websites such as Science City York to search for companies on York Science Park www.scy.co.uk or the UK Science Park Association for a directory of Science Parks throughout the UK www.ukspa.org.uk. Use the internet to research other specialist directories, such as www.ukbiotech.com, a directory of bioscience companies in the UK and www.labhoo.com, a database of life science related companies in the UK and beyond.
Sometimes relevant professional bodies and trade associations list member organisations and/or vacancies, for example the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry careers website has a list of pharmaceutical recruiters [http://careers.abpi.org.uk](http://careers.abpi.org.uk).

When you find companies you’re interested in, check their website to see if they have vacancies or if they offer an address for speculative applications. If not, you could submit a speculative application, outlining your skills experience and the kind of work you’re interested in. They may not have vacancies, but if they are interested they may keep your application on file for future opportunities or tell you if they use a specific recruitment agency. See our CV Guide on the [VLE](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/infosheets) for advice on writing CVs and covering letters and for examples.

**Learn to network**

This is about finding people who can help you – they might not have jobs, but they might have information or connections that you could use. Start with your current contacts – family, friends, neighbours, and let them know what kind of work you’re looking for. Going to careers events and fairs and taking the opportunity to speak to professionals and alumni could also help you. Try our autumn recruitment fairs (open to current students and graduates) and Working In… events [www.york.ac.uk/careers/events](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/events). You can also make contact with York graduates in areas of work that interest you, for information or advice, by searching through our online York profiles and mentors [www.york.ac.uk/careers/profiles](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/profiles).

If you are a member of a relevant scientific professional body you may have the opportunity to attend careers events and conferences at low cost and to attend regional networking meetings. For example, the Institute of Physics and Society of Biology run careers events and conferences and the Royal Society of Chemistry runs careers events and regional networking meetings for members.

Make social media work for you. Make sure you have a LinkedIn profile and join groups and follow organisations that are relevant to your interest. Participate in discussions and look out for vacancies. Use the search facilities to research employers and see staff profiles – there might be a connection you were unaware of. Twitter also allows you to follow organisations and individuals you’re interested in and may alert you to vacancies and events. Use our information sheet on Successful Networking for more information [www.york.ac.uk/careers/infosheets](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/infosheets). Biology and Environment students should ensure they’re following their departments’ Twitter jobs feeds: [https://twitter.com/BiolYorkCareers](https://twitter.com/BiolYorkCareers); [https://twitter.com/YorkEnvCareers](https://twitter.com/YorkEnvCareers).

Networking won’t necessarily help you to find vacancies straight away, but it might allow you to gain valuable career advice. Keeping in touch with your contacts could mean that if they do hear of any opportunities they are more likely to let you know.

Successful job searching is about using as many resources as possible, not relying on advertised opportunities alone, but making speculative approaches, building your network and making social media work for you.

**What else can you do?**

- **Attend our networking events and recruitment fairs.** These are open to all students and are an excellent way of finding out more about the sector you are interested in by talking to people already working in it – see [www.york.ac.uk/careers/events](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/events) for details of forthcoming events
- **Update your profile** within Careers Gateway [www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/gateway) and we will send you email alerts when opportunities matching your criteria are available
- **Contact a York graduate or gain an alumni mentor through our York profiles and mentors at [www.york.ac.uk/careers/profiles](http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/profiles) and get advice and information direct from York alumni working in the profession you are interested in**
‘Like’ our Science, Engineering and Technology Facebook page or follow us on http://twitter.com/YorkCareersSci.

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<th>Some key points for international students</th>
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<td>All the points in this information sheet are relevant to you. However we’d like to draw your attention to the following:</td>
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<td>• If you want to work in the UK after graduation, make sure you understand the routes available to you and the relevant immigration requirements. See the UKBA website at <a href="http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk">www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk</a> and the University’s Immigration Advice Service pages</td>
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<td>• In the four months at the end of your student visa you may be able to organise a short-term internship in order to get some experience working in the UK before you return home</td>
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<td>• Think about what you as an international student can offer a UK employer, what value will you add to their business? Do you have language skills, knowledge of business practices and new markets, etc?</td>
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<td>• If English is not your first language, work hard to improve your written and spoken English skills (if necessary ) while you are a student</td>
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<td>• Understand the skills that employers are looking for alongside your degree and think about how you can give strong evidence of these skills – use your time at university well</td>
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<td>• Make sure your job applications are of a high standard, well written with no grammar/spelling errors, and are relevant and well researched. Attend one of our regular workshops and use the information on our website to understand how to make good applications</td>
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<td>• Book an appointment with a member of Careers staff to get the content and structure of your CV/application reviewed. Careers staff are not able to proof read your applications – the Centre for English Language Teaching (CELT) at the University offers courses, workshops and one-to-one consultation to current students</td>
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<td>• If you want to work in your home country, or elsewhere overseas, see the information sheet Working outside the UK and the World Links web pages at <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/worldlinks">www.york.ac.uk/careers/worldlinks</a></td>
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<td>• Please see our information on our International student web pages: <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/careers/international">www.york.ac.uk/careers/international</a> for useful information about working in the UK or overseas after graduation.</td>
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Finally... Get out there and find what you want - get involved, talk to people, use work experience or voluntary work contacts or make new contacts, build up networks of people who can give you advice and information, as well as tell you about vacancies. Pick up graduate directories from Careers and keep a check on deadlines to make sure you don’t miss out on any opportunities. Check out the vacancy websites and read all the information sheets relevant to your job search - www.york.ac.uk/careers/infosheets.

Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. The Careers cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

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