

What's the Point

in



Biology?

To help you understand the value of biology, we've spoken to a number of professionals who still use the skills, qualities, and knowledge they gained from studying the subject at school in the work they do today. Turn over to find out who they are, what they do, and what they had to say...

What's the point in biology?

The Medical Communications Officer

I work in Medical Communications (a little-known industry that mixes science, creativity, and communication skills) and I regularly use my biology knowledge. My work is varied - one day, I might work in oncology, and the next I might work in cardiology. Therefore, I often need to quickly understand a new disease or how a new drug works. To do this, I analyse scientific papers and speak with doctors and patients. While I am not an expert in medicine, my biology background gives me the baseline knowledge needed to explore new topics, as well as the confidence to ask questions.

Jane Smith, Medical Communications Officer at AMICULUM

The Account Director

Having studied biology at school and in further education (I hold a biomedical sciences BSc and Immunology MSc), I now work as a consultant in the pharmaceutical field. I often have to learn about diseases within a short timeframe; having studied biology enables me to do this with ease. I am now grateful to be self-employed and have a career which is varied due to the large number of areas I work in. No two days are the same!

Nidhi Sharma, Account Director at WPP plc

The Nurse

I loved studying GCSE biology. It was such an interesting and relevant subject, and this was definitely the start for me of wanting to take a medical career path. It was the science subject that I could really understand and it came alive with the practical exercises, such as studying all the bones in the human skeleton - I still use and remember this today. GCSE biology really was the start of my medical journey (which was also influenced by my inspiring and unusual biology teacher!) Now I use the knowledge every day in my nursing role.

Charlotte Broughton, Matron Specialist (Surgery), Ashford and St Peters Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

The Food Legislation Specialist

I studied Biology A-level and then went on to complete a degree in Biochemistry. Rather than follow the path that most of my friends took (embarking on a PhD or a career in pharmaceuticals), I landed my first job in the animal feed industry. The company made enzymes to improve the digestibility of animal feeds, hence their need for a biochemist. This was about as far as my biochemistry stretched in my career - my biological background got me a foot in the door of an industry I knew nothing about but learned to love. From this job I went into regulatory affairs in feed, progressing to human food, and I am now an experienced regulatory manager for the food industry, currently working for Mars Wrigley Confectionery. So my pursuit of all things biological have taken me literally from pig feed to chocolate, technical and legal, on a fascinating global tour.

Jean Marshall, Food Legislation Specialist at JFM

The Project Manager

I am the senior project manager for a global team of over 130 scientists (of various disciplines) developing a new tool for vector control of malaria. I have an undergraduate degree in biology and a PhD in Immunology. My background in science allows me to act effectively as Project Manager as I understand the scientific challenges faced by the team, and can effectively support and guide my colleagues to ensure delivery of the project.

Dr Karen Logan, Senior Project Manager & Network Coordinator at Imperial College London

The Clinical Biochemist

As a clinical biochemist, I use the biology I learnt at school every single day, to enable me to make the best clinical decisions for every patient. Studying biology at school was the first stepping stone into this career and has enabled me to have a highly rewarding job in which I have a positive impact on the lives of others.

Kate Fenna, Senior Clinical Scientist at the Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

The Research Scientist

I use my biology knowledge every day in my job as a research biologist and biology lecturer. For example, I am working on research projects about cancer, where knowledge of cell biology is important, and on the genetic code, where I need to understand how proteins are transcribed. But apart from just knowing facts, biology also taught me about how to observe living things, how to ask questions, and how to design experiments to answer those questions.

Dr Louise Johnson, Scientist at the University of Reading



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