What Career Options are Available with My Degree?

During your degree you will have developed transferable skills such as teamwork, numeracy, communication and data analysis skills which will allow you to pursue a variety of careers beyond science. Come and talk to a careers consultant – it’ll help you to think about your options. You don’t need to know what you want to do for a job to talk to one of our advisers! [www.kcl.ac.uk/careereconnect](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/careereconnect)

Neuroscience is the scientific study of the nervous system. People who study Neuroscience can go on to have with a variety of careers both within scientific research and beyond. Here are just some of the possible areas your might go into with your degree:

- **Academia**: research and teaching
- **Clinical sciences**: working on clinical trials to prevent, diagnose and treat illness.
- **Pharmaceutical industry**: working to discover, develop and market new medicines.
- **Biotechnology**: developing technologies that make use of cellular and biomolecular processes.
- **Neuropsychology and Psychiatry**: generally, in research settings (e.g. university) or clinical settings, assessing or treating patients with neurological problems.
- **Policy, regulation and research**: developing, researching and implementing policy and regulation regarding public health and in the pharmaceutical industry.
- **Science communication, museum work and public engagement**: a broad area of work that includes scientific journalism and engaging the public in Science through organisations such as learned societies and the Wellcome Trust. For further information see our [Communicating Science Handout](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/careereconnect).
- **Scientific Publishing**: editing, publishing and reviewing scientific publications, as well as work in the media.

Where Should I Look to Find out More?

The British Neuroscience Association
[www.bna.org.uk/media/resources/files/Neuroscience_careers_leaflet_Q5g2ONP.pdf](http://www.bna.org.uk/media/resources/files/Neuroscience_careers_leaflet_Q5g2ONP.pdf)

The Medical Research Council
[www.mrc.ac.uk/skills-careers/interactive-career-framework/](http://www.mrc.ac.uk/skills-careers/interactive-career-framework/)

The largest UK organisation for neuroscientists. They have produced a helpful booklet on possible careers for neuroscientists, and a very useful careers page: [www.bna.org.uk/careers](http://www.bna.org.uk/careers)

TOPRA is the body for professional regulators. They have a handy guide to careers in regulation on their website: [www.topra.org/TOPRA_Member/Careers/TOPRA/TOPRA_Member/Careers/jobs_careers.aspx?hkey=3c927bf79d74044-9e9-d5ad4fc94684](http://www.topra.org/TOPRA_Member/Careers/TOPRA/TOPRA_Member/Careers/jobs_careers.aspx?hkey=3c927bf79d74044-9e9-d5ad4fc94684)

Careers in Neuropsychology and Psychiatry in a healthcare setting will require further postgraduate and clinical training. The NHS has a guide to careers in mental health care that provides information on the training required: [www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles-psychological-therapies/clinical-neuropsychologist](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/psychological-therapies/roles-psychological-therapies/clinical-neuropsychologist)

The Society for Neuroscience have an excellent range of online learning materials, focused on early career professionals in the field.
Useful Job Sites and Resources:

- For teaching and research jobs in academia: jobs.ac.uk
- For jobs in Neuroscience: www.bna.org.uk/jobs/
- The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies lists industry and academic positions, including PhD and Post-Doc vacancies on their website: bwww.fens.org/News-Activities/Jobs/
- For a variety of roles for Life Scientists (including PG courses and science communication): https://jobs.newscientist.com/jobs/life-sciences/
- Internships and graduate roles for STEM students: www.gracracker.com
- For jobs relating to Psychology see the British Psychological Society website: www.bps.org.uk/
- For jobs in the NHS: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk
- For international jobs in the Pharmaceutical Industry: www.wileyjobnetwork.com/jobs/pharmaceutical/
- For jobs in regulatory affairs: www.topra.org/OPRA_Member/Careers/jobs/OPRA/OPRA_Member/topra_job.aspx?hkey=ceff1d900-f622-4724-b1a0-657c08e97f7

Options for Further Study and Funding

Neuroscience graduates can go on to study a range of postgraduate degrees, depending on their career goals and research interests. KCL, for example, offers several different Neuroscience degrees at MSc level:

- **Neuroscience MSc** provides multidisciplinary training in a range of neuroscience topics, particularly those relevant to psychiatry and neurology. It seeks to equip graduates from a wide range of backgrounds for the next stage of their career, which may be either further study in a neuroscience-related academic research environment, or employment in an academic, clinical or pharmaceutical setting.

- **Clinical Neuroscience MSc** offers an understanding of the principles underlying the clinical presentation and investigation of diseases affecting the brain and is suitable for students interested in neuroscience and its applications to neurological or psychiatric diseases.

- **Neuroimaging MSc** has a strong focus on applied neuroimaging, including practical experience of scanning techniques and analysis methodologies. You will develop the broad set of skills required to work in the competitive world of neuroimaging.

There are also several interdisciplinay postgraduate courses that combine approaches from psychology and psychiatry and which allow students to develop their clinical understanding and research experience in preparation for a variety of careers from public health policy to clinical treatment of patients. In order to choose the course that is right for you, look into the requirements for your chosen career. Some jobs require approved courses and training. Ask the relevant course lead for further advice.

For careers in research: There are a variety of support roles in scientific research such as Lab Technician or Research Assistant which do not require a PhD. Students wishing to go into academic or industry research with the aim of becoming an independent researcher will likely need to take a PhD, however. Refer to the MRC Framework above for further guidance.

Funding:

For general advice on applying for funding see: www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/student-funding/funding-funding-guidance.aspx

For PG funding specific to the IoPPN at King’s see: www.kcl.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees-and-funding/student-funding/postgraduate-taught-funding/IoPPN-Deans-Scholarships.aspx

The Medical Research Council offers postgraduate funding including Doctoral Training Partnerships and Industrial Studentships: www.mrc.ac.uk/skills-careers/studentships/

Some medical research charities such as Alzheimer’s Research UK provide funding for students to study Postgraduate degrees in Neuroscience and related fields. The MRC has produced a useful interactive framework for exploring funding options: www.mrc.ac.uk/skills-careers/studentships/how-we-fund-studentships/dotal-training-partnerships-dtps/

The Wellcome Trust, a biomedical research charity based in London, also offers PhD studentships: wellcome.ac.uk/funding/four-year-phd-programmes-studentships-basic-scientists

Individual university departments also offer PG funding, from full studentships or partial bursaries. Check with the specific institutions you are interested in applying to. The Find a PhD site allows you to search for funded PhDs all over the world.

www.findaphd.com/search/phd.aspx?SAID=55&FID=UK&Keywords=fully+funded

The International Brain Research Organization offers competitive research fellowships and funding: http://ibro.info/professional-development/funding-programmes/

Networking and Diversity in Neuroscience

Academic conferences and events can be valuable networking opportunities. See the British Neuroscience Association for upcoming events, including student conferences: www.bna.org.uk/mediacentre/events/

Joining relevant societies such as the Neuroscience Society and the IoPPN Student Forum at King’s is also a great way of building up your network, since there are often
events with guest speakers from industry, academia and
other sectors. KCL student societies are listed here:
www.kclsu.org/getinvolved/societies/joiningagroup/

Some student societies, such as KCL Women in STEM
promote diversity in scientific research and careers. In
terms of gender equality in science, the Athena SWAN
Charter was established in 2005 to encourage and
recognise commitment to advancing the careers of women
in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine
(STEMM) employment in higher education and research.
You can read more about the initiative here:
https://athenaforum.org.uk/about-athena-forum/

Updated: November 2018

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