

BHASVIC

Guide to Higher Education

Medical Careers

Dentistry, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing

Nutrition, Optometry, Physiotherapy

Radiography and medical technology

Speech therapy and audiology

Sports science, Veterinary Science

Open day questions	2
Dentistry.....	3
Medicine	6
Midwifery	9
Nursing.....	12
Nutrition	15
Optometry	18
Pharmacy	21
Physiotherapy	24
Radiography and medical technology	27
Speech therapy and audiology	30
Veterinary Science	33
BHASVIC info 2019	36
Sources & Links.....	38

What to ask on a medical careers open day

Looking for ideas of what to ask at open days? Use these questions if you're thinking of taking a course in medical studies, like medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacology or physiotherapy...

About the course

- Is this course lecture based or is it problem-based learning?
- Does this course have a subject or systems based emphasis?
- Are my lecturers also practitioners?
- Talk me through what each year of the course entails...
- When / do I get to specialise?

Admissions

- For medicine will I have to take the BMAT or UKCAT to get on to this course? What prep should I do beforehand for this?
- Will I also be expected to attend an interview? What will you be looking for me to demonstrate during this?

Equipment and facilities

- Where can I find the reading list for this course? What books are necessary for me to buy?
- How much time will I spend in lectures? In the library?
- How much time will I be spending in labs?
- How modern or state-of-the-art are the university's facilities? Do you specialise in a particular area?

Placements and work experience

- How much of the course is clinical practice?
- How many placements will I have? Do I organise my own placements or does the university arrange those?
- Is there an opportunity to do an intercalated degree?
- Which hospitals or medical centres do you partner with?
- Am I expected to travel far to placements?

Exams and projects

- How the course is assessed – clinical assessment, exams, coursework?
- What is the weighting for each part / year of the course?
- Do I need to complete a dissertation or research-based project?

Graduate prospects

- Is it more important to get the best grade, or have a range of work experiences when I apply for this course?
- If happens if I don't meet my conditional offer this year? Can I re-take and reapply next year?
- What types of job / areas of medicine are open to me when I finish?

Dentistry courses

This five-year course is the first step to qualifying to practice as a dentist. You need to have an aptitude for science and good people skills. The course involves studying anatomy, physiology and biochemistry alongside placements to learn practical skills, such as taking a medical history, dental examinations and deciding on appropriate treatment, orthodontics - straightening teeth using braces... - and using local anaesthetic.

VOCATIONAL

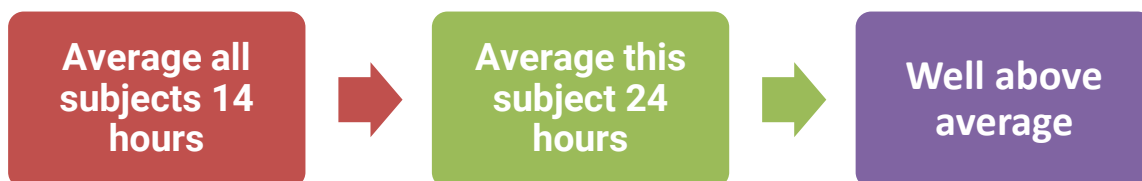
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- LOTS OF READING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- TIME IN LABS
- PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
- EXAM-INTENSIVE
- MEDICAL
- SCIENCE
- BDS

Example course modules

- Patient assessment
- Oral biology
- Digestive, renal and endocrine systems
- Healthcare ethics and law
- Radiology
- Periodontology
- Paediatric dentistry and orthodontics
- Clinical skills
- Oral pathology
- Oral sciences and medicine

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about dentistry

Dentistry is demanding whichever university you choose to study at. External parties aim to maintain a uniform qualification between the country's few dental schools. This standard set is high. 9am starts are the norm. Some evenings you may even have a last lecture finishing at 6pm. The first year has limited reference to oral biology and concentrates on the body's organ systems - cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, nervous... It's a tough but interesting challenge. One day a week is spent at the dental hospital with introductory lectures and observation sessions. As the years pass, clinical presence increases.

1st year, University of Birmingham

My dentistry course has many diverse topics in the first year, including anatomy, physiology, chemistry, microbiology and genetics, and each topic jostles for position as the most crucial. Time is divided between lab work, lectures, dissection sessions and sessions in the dental hospital once a week, and you'll find you're always busy. This is a hugely rewarding course, but to keep on top of coursework, assignments and lecture notes, many evenings will be sacrificed.

1st year, Cardiff University

My course is very full-on - often it feels like having a 9 to 5 job without being paid! In the pre-clinical years there are lectures and practical classes all day most days. In the clinical years the day is split between lectures and seeing patients. It's an extremely challenging course, with regular exams and a very heavy work load, but it is also very rewarding. We are graded based on the quality of our patient treatment, and on exam papers - there are very rarely assignments that have to be completed.

3rd year, University of Dundee

Subjects you need

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Chemistry
- Biology

Useful to have

- English
- Physics
- Mathematics

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- October application
- Interview
- Entry test
- Work experience

See end of guide

Career prospects

Dentistry qualifications are a savvy choice if a solid and stable career is top of your priority list. It's one of the very few degrees out there able to rival medicine for the strongest employability prospects and starting salary around. The recession appears to have barely touched early career options available for new dentists - almost all graduates get dental jobs on leaving their courses.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Medical researcher
- Dentist
- Reconstructive surgeon

Other real-life job examples

- University Lecturer
- Medical instrument designer
- Orthodontist

What employers like about this subject

Studying for a degree in dentistry will give you skills in basic anatomy, physiology and biochemistry, in investigation and diagnosis of medical conditions and in the principles, practice and ethics of dental care. You will also develop useful transferable skills such as good communication, problem-solving and decision-making skills. Most dentists work in dental practices, but you can also find them in hospitals, the Armed Forces, or working for universities.

Medicine courses

If you are fascinated by how the human body works and have a genuine concern for the welfare of others, medicine could be for you. You'll need to be academically able with great communication and problem-solving skills and have the drive to cope with a demanding five-year course. With further study you could become a GP or work your way up from doctor to consultant in a wide range of medical or surgical areas.

- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- LOTS OF READING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- TIME IN LABS
- PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
- MB
- EXAM-INTENSIVE
- MEDICAL
- SURGICAL

Example course modules

- Human reproduction
- Research project in medicine
- Core epidemiology
- Biochemistry
- Body systems
- Molecules to disease
- Behavioural sciences
- Patients, doctors and society
- Thought, senses and movement
- Nutrition, metabolism and endocrinology

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) | [The Complete University Guide](#) | [The Times](#)

What students say about medicine

As a medic, the course is more full-on than most courses and you will be in uni pretty much 9-5 every day (except Wednesdays for sport), with a high number of contact hours. This includes lectures, tutorial groups, anatomy sessions, clinical skills, physiology practicals, community placement time and any hospital visits.

2nd year, Durham University

The content of the course is really amazing and I think there is a great balance of topics covered. Dissection is fascinating and the other tutorials and lectures are all extremely interesting. There is a lot of work to do out of the timetabled hours and this can be extremely challenging.

2nd year, University of St Andrews

It's mainly lectures, tutorials, symposiums, placement and anatomy sessions in the first two years. It feels like you're studying every degree at once as there are elements of biology, chemistry, physics, psychology and sociology.

2nd year, University of Southampton

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Chemistry
- Biology

Useful to have

- Critical Thinking

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- October application
- Interview
- Entry test
- Work experience

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

Good news! Medical degrees have, and will no doubt continue to have, some of the best employment outcomes of any qualification in terms of salary expectations and long-term prospects. Unsurprisingly, almost all graduates go into jobs within the health sector. If you're taking a shorter pre-clinical course, you'll need to continue on to further medical training to complete an accredited qualification, which explains why a high proportion of those grads are 'in further study' six months later.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Hospital doctor
- General practice doctor
- Medical specialist

Other real-life job examples

- Health service manager
- Solicitor
- Aid Worker

What employers like about this subject

A degree in medicine will give you skills in good medical practice; in evidence-based medicine; in dealing with difficult or emergency situations and in investigating and diagnosing medical conditions. You will also gain useful transferable skills such as good communication, problem-solving and decision-making skills. Most doctors work in hospitals, clinics or GP practices, but roles are also available in the Armed Forces, the pharmaceutical industry or working for universities.

Midwifery

Midwives support mothers before, during and after the birth of a child. Consider midwifery if you want to learn to combine clinical skills with understanding the needs and experiences of women from a wide range of backgrounds – not if you want to work with babies! This is a physically and emotionally demanding course requiring confidence and compassion. Midwives work in hospitals and increasingly in the community.

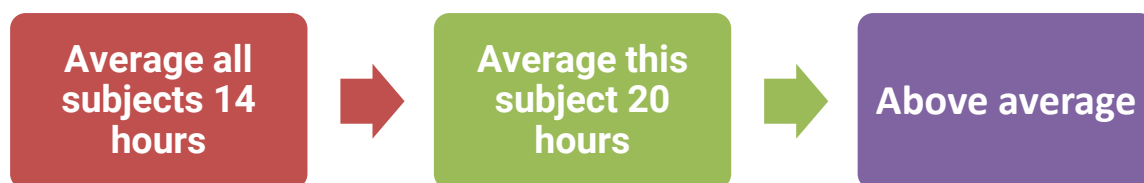
- BSC
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- LOTS OF READING
- TIME IN LABS
- PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
- HEALTHCARE
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- HOSPITAL

Example course modules

- Communication and group working
- Foundations in postnatal care
- Pathophysiology in maternity
- Evolving midwifery practice for pregnancy and birth
- Preparation for autonomous midwifery practice
- Principles of research
- Public health and childbearing
- Delivering safe and compassionate care
- Responding to complex needs during the antenatal period
- Appreciating the research process in midwifery

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about midwifery

Midwifery is a very full-on course running right from September to August (so don't expect the long holidays that other students get). It is very interesting and also very challenging as sometimes we have to deal with emotional or emergency situations whilst on placement. The topics we study are varied, looking at anatomy and physiology, politics and health policies, public/sexual health and sociology, as well as learning practical skills required for midwifery in the skills labs within the university.

2nd year, University of Central Lancashire

We have two days a week in uni and three days on placement. I feel that this is enough as we learn more when out in practice. The midwifery course is brilliant, although challenging, but this is expected. On my particular course, the assignments are well spaced out and are mainly essay based, with one presentation assignment in each year. Assessment takes place constantly in practice.

1st year, Edge Hill University

My course has both uni days and placement days. On placement I work all sorts of shifts. Course content is good, just everything you need to know about being a midwife. It's pretty challenging in the sense that there's so much you need to do and in terms of learning your own styles and developing on how you use information.

1st year, Edinburgh Napier University

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Biology or another science

Useful to have

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Chemistry

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Interview
- Work Experience

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

Nursing is the subject with the most degree graduates in 2012 - over 14,300, with many choosing to specialise in midwifery. We'll always need midwives in this country, so it's no surprise to see that the very large majority of nursing and midwifery graduates go on to become nurses and midwives, and that starting salaries are pretty competitive. That's not to say that you can't do anything else. Some nursing graduates get other jobs - usually, but not always, in health or caring professions, or management.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Midwifery
- Midwifery team leader
- Delivery suite manager

Other real-life job examples

- Adult nurse
- Care worker
- Midwife-tutor

What employers like about this subject

Gaining a degree in midwifery will help to provide you with the skills needed to supervise births, support pregnant women and care for new-born children. Useful transferable skills gained by studying midwifery include communication, team-working and time management skills, plus the ability to make decisions under pressure. Midwives tend to work for hospitals or health services.

Nursing

If you want a course where you study the physical, psychological and social needs of patients and their families and then learn to apply this knowledge through practical community and hospital based placements, then nursing could be for you. Nurses provide a vital role in a front-line health care team and you can specialise in adult, child, mental health or learning disability nursing.

- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- LOTS OF READING
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- TIME IN LABS
- PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
- ADULT NURSING
- CHILD NURSING
- MENTAL HEALTH NURSING

Example course modules

- Health issues and ethics
- Work-based learning
- Personal development
- Developing skills for practice
- Managing complexities in care delivery
- Introduction to epidemiology
- Planning care for the adult patient
- Global health and sustainability
- Developing therapeutic approaches and practice
- Introduction to health and wellbeing

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about nursing

My nursing degree is split, with 50% of my time in uni with lectures, practicals, and clinical skills building, and 50% on clinical placement. So far I have had a mixture of assignments - some 2,000 and 4,000 word reflective accounts, placements (three in all) and all very different, and two exams. I would recommend the course to any individual interested in nursing and caring for others.

1st year, Swansea University

Very full-on, full-time study, with very little rest time! A mixture of lectures, tutorials, clinical skills and self-directed study. Varied practice placements. Full attendance required. Assessments were a mixture of essays and exams and some group work.

3rd year, University of Dundee

Nursing is not a course for the faint hearted. The lectures are long and intense, and placement means "summer holidays" are a thing of the past. (writing this on my break at 03:30am on August 1st, in a cardiac ward lol) You will need to pull your weight, and get ready for a big life change. But if you are willing to put in effort, its sooo rewarding. We do clinical skills, essays, presentations and have placement in blocks of 8-10wks. If you ever find yourself struggling with any of it though, you have a personal tutor who will make time for you, and help you out.

2nd year, Manchester Metropolitan University

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Biology or another science

Useful to have

- Psychology
- Sociology
- Chemistry

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Interview
- Work Experience

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

This is the subject with the most degree graduates in 2012 - over 14,300. We'll always need nurses in this country, so it's no surprise to see that the very large majority of nursing graduates go on to become nurses, and that starting salaries are pretty competitive. There are lots of different specialties to choose

from (including midwifery), and the most common by far is adult nursing, but the typical end result for graduates is the same – they go on to become nurses (or midwives). That's not to say that you can't do anything else. Some nursing graduates get other jobs - usually, but not always, in health or caring professions, or management.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Health service manager
- Paramedic
- Care home manager

Other real-life job examples

- Adult nurse
- Children's nurse
- Mental health nurse

What employers like about this subject

Studying for a degree in nursing will help you to develop skills in patient care, in case assessment and handling, and in multidisciplinary, clinical team-working. Other useful transferable skills that a nursing degree can provide include communication, time management, adaptability, problem-solving, and leadership. Nurses tend to work in hospitals, but can also work for GP practices, in clinics, for schools or universities, in the Armed Forces, in social or residential care homes and in the leisure industry attached to hotels or cruise ships.

Local Market Information – Nursing Apprenticeships

There were a total of 300 nursing apprenticeship degree starts in 2017/18 and 310 in the first quarter of 2018/19. Alongside this, the committee noted the fall in the number of applicants to nursing degrees – down by 17,000 since 2016 – a probably consequence of the end of the nursing bursary. The Government's response to the report was published in early March and acknowledges that apprenticeships are not intended to replace the three-year degree route.

Nutrition courses

If you have an aptitude for chemistry or biology and an interest in food and health a nutrition course could be for you. You will study biochemistry and physiology and topics such as food production, development of new foods, diet and exercise and public health promotion. If you are interested in helping individuals with diabetes or obesity or who need a special diet you may be interested in courses which include dietetics and qualify you to practice as a dietician.

- SPORT
- BSC
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- TIME IN LABS
- CHEMISTRY
- EXAM-INTENSIVE
- BIOLOGY
- HEALTHCARE
- PRACTICAL WORK
- RESEARCH-INTENSIVE

Example course modules

- Current issues for nutrition
- The chemical foundations of life
- Infection and immunity
- Scientific and laboratory skills
- Nutrition, society and ethics
- Food science
- Food safety and hygiene
- Public health and health promotion
- Biostatistics
- Nutrition and exercise science

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about nutrition

The first two years are done closely with the nutrition students, and then the last two are pretty much completely separate, as you start to study pure dietetics. There are roughly 20 contact hours in a week, so you will be in uni every day but sometimes only for a morning. Practical lab sessions are all day, but vary depending on the practical done. The course is very varied to start with, and gets more specialised as you go through. At the beginning you will learn a lot you think you will never need to use which is frustrating, but trust me, it will come in useful! When I got on placement, I was trying to remember all the stuff I thought I would never need! The work is challenging, and can get really hard, but it is also interesting. The satisfaction of cracking something hard is worth it!

2nd year, King's College London, University of London

Classes are a mix of lectures, tutorials and workshops. The first year focuses on general nutrition, while the second and third years are much more dietetic-based and are extremely interesting and challenging. In second and third year, students are encouraged to research for their own and others' learning in case-based learning classes. This gives students a valuable experience in researching for evidence, for evidence-based practice. Exams are both written and practical. Students are examined on their communication and consultation skills in practical exams.

3rd year, University of Plymouth

If you expect to attend university twice a week, don't choose health science and nutrition. The amount of lectures a week during the last three years was surprisingly a lot. The content of course is challenging because it touches on a lot of different subjects over the years. Most of the coursework consists of essays and some practical work (a report or abstract).

3rd year, University of Aberdeen

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Chemistry
- Biology

Useful to have

- Physics

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

This is the subject you need to study if you want to become a dietitian – an important job in the country's healthcare sector, and the single most common job for nutrition graduates. The population is becoming more aware of how important a good diet can be for wellbeing, and many people have special dietary needs, from individuals with food allergies to others with serious illnesses who need carefully-planned diets. So that's where graduates in nutrition come in – and we're likely to need more in the future.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Nutritionist
- Health information officer
- Nutritional therapist

Other real-life job examples

- Marketing executive
- Financial analyst
- Regulatory affairs officer

What employers like about this subject

Studying nutrition will help students to develop subject-specific skills in areas including physiology and biochemistry; in understanding food development; production and processing and in the interpretation and communication of nutritional information to a range of audiences. You can also develop useful transferable skills including good communication skills, team-working, project management, problem-solving, self-motivation, research and excellent numeracy skills. Nutrition graduates are employed in hospitals, GP practices, social care organisations, universities, the food industry, life science research and the finance industry.

Optometry courses

Are you interested in studying the science of the eye and learning how to examine eyes and correct sight problems? If so, optometry could be for you. If the idea of helping people choose glasses - advising on lenses and frames and finding the right fit - appeals, then an ophthalmic dispensing degree would be worth exploring. For both types of courses, you will need an interest in science and good communication skills.

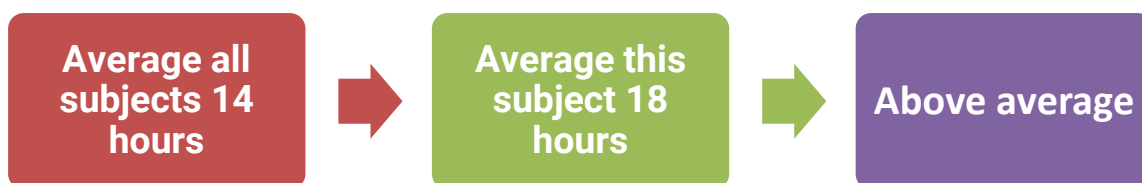
- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- TIME IN LABS
- EXAM-INTENSIVE
- SCIENCE
- PRACTICAL WORK
- TECHNICAL

Example course modules

- Foundation mathematics for science
- Foundation biology
- Optics of the eye
- Introduction to ophthalmic lenses
- Communication skills in the optical sector
- Practice management
- Low vision management and assessment
- Practical methods in dispensing
- Vocational and recreational dispensing
- Ocular anatomy and contact lenses

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about optometry

For the 1st semester of studying Optometry I was in 5 days a week Monday to Friday and had about 15 hours of teaching time including lectures, tutorials, lab sessions and practical lessons. For the 2nd semester I had every Wednesday off, but still had about 15 hours of lesson and The content of optometry was varied and interesting. Both semesters included geometrical and physical visual optics (i.e. physics and maths), ocular anatomy and biochemistry (biology and chemistry) and theoretical and practical ophthalmic lenses. In my second semester, I had clinical optometry and interpersonal skills (my favourite - learning how to perform the tests an optometrist does in the clinic). The course is therefore very mixed in terms of subjects included and theoretical and practical approaches.

1st year, Anglia Ruskin University

I study optometry. I feel the amount of teaching and clinic work we receive is a good balance, and we always get a chance for extra practice if we need to for our clinics. I feel my course is very interesting, as there's always new information to be learnt - it was only recently a new layer of the cornea was discovered!

2nd year, Aston University, Birmingham

During the first year, we had at least one or two lectures a day, practicals a few times a week, and clinics once a week. This felt like a good balance and we had a good amount of time to work from home then. The first year is all about learning the basics, and then in the second year we will go into more detail, which I'm really looking forward to. The first year clinics were great, well stocked with lenses and high quality optometric instruments. We did a few sessions in the second and third year clinics, so I'm really looking forward to spending more time there this coming year.

1st year, Cardiff University

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Chemistry
- Biology

Useful to have

- Physics

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Interview

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

Most students in this category study optometry degrees. Don't get too worried by the salaries you see here. On graduation, the most recent ophthalmics graduates go on to pre-registration training for a year, before taking final assessments and being able to register as an optometrist. At this point, salaries jump to much healthier rates depending on whether you go into private practice with, for example, a high street opticians, or enter the NHS. This is also one of those degrees that can get you a skilled job in most parts of the country – so if you've got good grades but want to work in a particular part of the UK, this can be a good bet. Unemployment rates are low.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Ophthalmic optician
- Dispensing optician
- Optometrics

Other real-life job examples

- Orthoptist

What employers like about this subject

Students taking a degree in optometry and/ or ophthalmics can develop subject-related skills including an understanding of the scientific principles of eye care and the detection, recognition, diagnosis, prevention and management of conditions affecting the eye. Transferable skills you can develop include communication, IT, numeracy, problem-solving and critical evaluation. Optometry graduates tend to work for hospitals, specialist opticians or larger retail stores with optician departments - although some work in universities as researchers.

Pharmacy

Would you like to be an expert on medicines and how to use them effectively? Pharmacists prepare, dispense and give advice about medicines and drugs, working in community pharmacies, hospitals, the pharmaceutical industry and university research posts. This four-year course involves in-depth study of pharmaceutical chemistry and medical science with hands-on-learning - either on placement or in simulated patient situations. You need to have an aptitude for sciences, particularly chemistry, and enjoy communicating with the public.

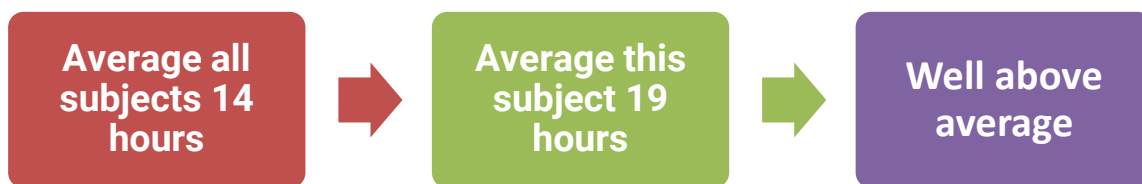
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- TIME IN LABS
- CHEMISTRY
- MEDICAL
- HEALTHCARE
- RESEARCH
- PRACTICAL WORK
- MPHARM

Example course modules

- Dispensing competence
- Responding to symptoms
- Cell and molecular biology
- Pharmaceutical chemistry
- Advances in drug therapy
- Drugs discovery and delivery
- Foundations in pharmacy practice
- Inflammation, cancer and infection
- Pharmaceutics

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about pharmacy

The course goes in to great detail in a number of scientific areas including the biology of the human body systems, organic chemistry, drug formulations and pharmacology. There is around 21 hours of teaching each week. Approx two thirds are lectures and the other third is tutorials, practicals or workshops. Coursework is predominantly lab or test based. Final exams typically account for 80% of the overall module marks, with a small degree of variation either way.

2nd year, Cardiff University

There is usually 12 hours of teaching spread over the week. The content in first year pharmacy is fairly challenging but you will cope well if you put the study time required in. Chemistry, maths, molecular properties and physiology are the main classes of the year which require a range of essays, practical lab work, reports to complete throughout the year. With written and multiple choice exams to be taken at the end of semester one and two.

1st year, University of Strathclyde

My course (pharmacy) is one of the more intense courses you can study with around 20 hours of contact time per week. This includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, labs and dispensary, but does not include time for private study or coursework. The course is more challenging than I thought it would be due to the fact that there is more maths and physics related content than I expected. I find the course very interesting but it is a lot of work! For the Pharmacy Practice module, you are required to make a portfolio over the year to see your progress in certain skills, such as team work or time management. For this you also have to write a reflective essay and an up to date CV. The chemistry module involves lab work. From this you record you results, analyse the data and write up a lab report including why your results may have been wrong, and what your findings showed. You also have to pass labs in formulations. This involves making creams and ointments to a high enough standard that they could be given to the public.

1st year, University of East Anglia UEA

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Chemistry
- Biology

Useful to have

- Physics
- Mathematics

Application checklist

- January application
- Personal statement
- Interview
- Work Experience

Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry

- Pharmacy with a Foundation Year
- Pharmacy
- Pharmacy (4 years)
- Pharmacy with Integrated Foundation Year

Career prospects

Although there have been some concerns expressed about whether opportunities have kept pace with a subject that has rapidly increased in popularity, unemployment rates for pharmacy grads are ultra-low and over 95% of working pharmacy graduates had jobs as pharmacists (mostly as retail pharmacists) six months after they left their courses; telling you that these are degrees in demand.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Quality assurance scientist
- Packaging engineer
- Regulatory affairs officer

Other real-life job examples

- Retail pharmacist
- Analytical scientist
- Pharmacologist

What employers like about this subject

A degree in pharmacy will help you to develop a range of subject-specific skills including an understanding of the principles, design and manufacture of medicines; the law and ethics of the supply of medicines and knowledge of pharmaceutical analysis. Transferable skills a pharmacy graduate will develop include communication, data evaluation and commercial awareness. Pharmacists are usually employed in pharmacy stores, either as a part of retail chains, or (less common than in the past) as their own business, for hospitals, for medical practices, and in the pharmaceutical industry.

Physiotherapy courses

Physiotherapists treat patients with muscle and skeletal injuries, neurological problems and breathing problems. They help people rehabilitate and regain movement after an illness or injury. Most work in hospitals or in private clinics, while some may work for sports clubs or the armed forces. Physiotherapy is a popular option and you'll need good grades to get a place on a course, particularly in a biological science. Courses typically combine theory with learning practical diagnostic and treatment skills.

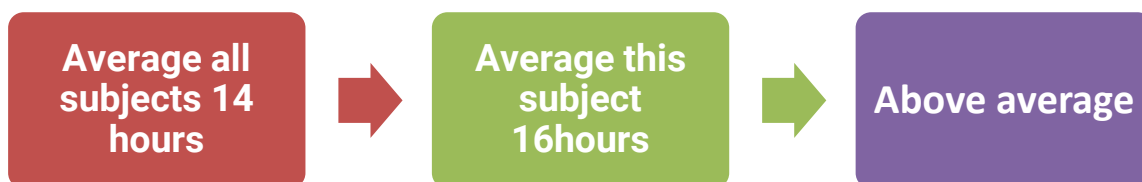
- SPORT
- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- TIME IN LABS
- PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
- HEALTHCARE
- EXERCISE
- PRACTICAL WORK

Example course modules

- Applied anatomy and biomechanics
- Clinical skills
- Physiology in the context of physiotherapy
- Cardiorespiratory physiotherapy
- Cardiovascular health
- Critical thinking and enquiry
- Exercise across the lifespan
- Foundations in health, social care and professional practice
- Musculoskeletal management and rehabilitation
- Neurological physiotherapy

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about physiotherapy

The workload is reasonable. It can be difficult to gauge how much study to do, as most of it is self-directed study. My course is challenging because it is very diverse. There is a lot of emphasis on communication and professional behaviour. I like the fact that we have practical classes.

1st year, Robert Gordon University

The course content is varied as we have different modules covering different things. They are taught through lectures, seminars, tutorials and practicals. They are assessed using a variety of ways including essays, practicals and exams. Practical especially are good as we have a chance to practice them as formative before having two summative ones that contribute to our final grade. This gives us chance to have feedback which is done in a standardised way. We have our own building which means we see familiar faces, but also have the chance to integrate with students from the other professions.

1st year, University of East Anglia UEA

On my physiotherapy course the amount of hours and type of teaching sessions each week are excellent. Expect to be in lessons about 15-20 hours a week in the first year increasing to about 30 in second and third years. Although it can be a challenging course, as a whole the content is extremely interesting. If you study this particular course, you'll be required to complete essays, written exams, VIVA exams (oral) and the dreaded OSCEs (practical exams - don't worry you'll be fine after the initial nerves), as well as a couple of presentations of the course of the three years with great feedback available from the staff.

3rd year, University of Hertfordshire

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Biology

Useful to have

- English
- Chemistry
- Physical education
- Physics
- Mathematics

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Interview
- Work Experience

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

Physiotherapy is a popular subject, and the graduates of 2012 had a slightly lower unemployment rate overall than related subjects such as anatomy and physiology, having seen job prospects improve significantly in the last 12 months. Physiotherapy graduates mainly go straight into work, and a majority got into physiotherapy roles within six months of graduation in 2012, either in hospitals or private practice. If you fancy working for yourself, physiotherapists are rather more likely than the average graduate to start their career self-employed.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Physiotherapist
- Veterinary physiotherapist
- Biokineticist

Other real-life job examples

- Rehabilitation therapist
- Prison officer
- Sports coach

What employers like about this subject

As part of a physiotherapy degree, you would expect to gain subject-specific skills in areas such as the professional practice of physiotherapy and in investigating and diagnosing health issues; in the principles and ethics of evidence-based health practice and in the principles of rehabilitation. Transferrable skills you can develop include good communication skills, problem-solving, team-working and decision-making. Physiotherapists tend to get jobs with hospitals, specialist physiotherapy practices, gyms, sports clubs, the Armed Forces, in welfare organisations and in education (particularly universities).

Radiography and medical technology courses

There are two types of radiography course. Diagnostic radiography involves learning how to use medical imaging, such as X-ray, MRI and ultrasound to help doctors make a diagnosis. Therapeutic radiography or radiotherapy and oncology courses involve using radiography for the treatment and care of patients with cancer. Both types of courses include practical placements and qualify you to work as a professional radiographer. You will gain medical knowledge and patient care skills and learn how to use technical equipment.

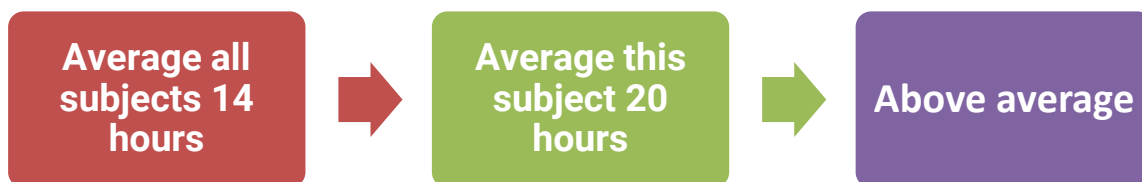
- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- PRACTICAL WORK
- TECHNICAL
- DIAGNOSTIC
- THERAPEUTIC
- RADIOTHERAPY

Example course modules

- Academic and professional practice
- Oncology and cancer studies
- Radiotherapy in practice
- Applied skeletal imaging
- Ethical and legal issues
- Advancing radiographic practice
- The emerging professional
- Complementary image systems
- Radiography of the axial skeleton
- Imaging in care pathways

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about radiography and medical technology

My course is 50% academic study and 50% clinical placement. Assessments are essays, practicals and computerised exams. There are also assessments to undertake whilst on placement in hospital. I think you learn most on placement. I have enjoyed the first year very much!

1st year, University of Salford

There is far less 'classroom' time than I expected. For a full-time course, I think the busiest week I've had probably amounted to about 10 hours. The lecturers are really helpful and the vast majority have worked (some still do) in the field they are teaching about. This can give a great insight into what to expect when on placement. Typical of universities, you are expected to research, plan and complete work on your own.

1st year, University of Cumbria

There is a lot of teaching and lectures each week. The course content in the first year was really interesting, and whilst at first seemed quite basic, it progressively got harder until the year ended. The type of work is examinations and coursework. Course-specific facilities are excellent.

1st year, Bristol, University of the West of England

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- At least one from biology, chemistry or physics

Useful to have

- Mathematics

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

The stats here mainly cover radiography graduates – and as the country is currently short of specialists in some of this area, that means good job prospects and, often, decent starting salaries. With a lot of modern medicine (and dentistry) using high-tech equipment, there are big opportunities for medical technology grads, although most early careers are spent operating these complex instruments, rather than designing or developing them. Unemployment rates are relatively low in these subjects, and 80% of graduates with jobs became radiographers

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Radiographer
- X-Ray operator
- Sonographer

Other real-life job examples

- Clinical photographer
- Medical instrument technician

What employers like about this subject

A radiography degree will teach you subject-specific skills in anatomy, physiology and pathology; the science, theory and practice of medical imaging and radiographic research methods and statistics. You will also get useful transferable skills such as good communication skills, problem-solving, evaluating and acting on evidence, and decision-making. Radiography graduates largely work in hospitals or specialist health facilities.

Speech therapy and audiology courses

Speech therapists diagnose, assess and treat communication disorders, working with adults and children in schools, hospitals and the community. Audiologists measure people's hearing, fit and adjust hearing aids (including state-of-the art implants) and give advice on coping with a hearing impairment. Audiologists work with adults, people with special needs and sometimes children and newborn babies. For both types of courses you will need an interest in science and good communication skills.

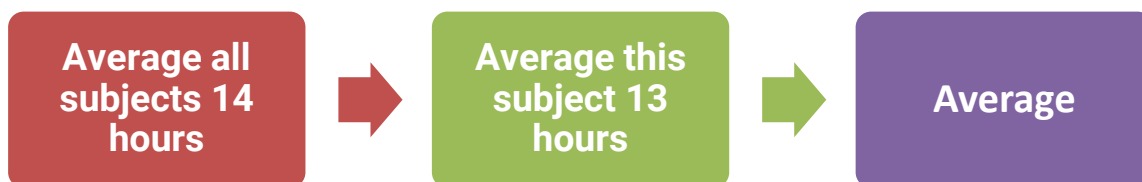
- BSC
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- TIME IN LABS
- MEDICAL
- HEALTHCARE
- TECHNICAL
- LANGUAGES

Example course modules

- Phonetic transcription
- Biological sciences
- Lifespan psychology and language development
- Communication science and technology
- Applications of critical theory
- Investigating human development and behaviour
- Grammar and meaning
- Communication and swallowing needs
- Perception
- Cognition and learning

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) | [The Complete University Guide](#) | [The Times](#)

What students say about speech therapy and audiology

The speech and language therapy course has exceeded all my expectations. The first year of the course covers a variety of subjects including medicine (anatomy and physiology, ENT, paediatrics), phonetics and phonology, grammar and meaning, clinical studies, psychology, and placements in health care settings. All these are actually interesting to learn about. The most interesting assessment in year 1 for me was the child development assignment. This involved observing a child twice a term in their own home as they develop speech for the first time. My university has its own NHS speech and language therapy clinic on campus where you can sit on the other side of an observation mirror and watch therapy sessions without the clients knowing you're there. This is a vital role in understanding how your learning can be used to help those with a speech, language or communication impairment.

1st year, University of Reading

I study speech and language therapy, and so the teaching varies between lectures, seminars and work-based placements. The practical side of the course involves going into the community and gaining experience related to the profession. In my first year, we participated in a six-week block of nursery placement, where we spent one morning in the nursery a week.

1st year, University of Sheffield

The course is challenging and you'll probably feel like you have a lot more work to do and more teaching hours than your friends on some other courses. The course is very varied. Modules include psychology, biology and child development. Placements are very rewarding and help you grow as a speech therapist.

3rd year, De Montfort University

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Biology
- English language

Useful to have

- Psychology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Modern foreign language

Application checklist

Here's a guide to what to expect from the application process - also check individual university entry requirements, as these may differ.

- January application
- Personal statement
- Interview

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

This subject covers a group of related subjects, like audiology and speech science. The most common job for graduates from this group is speech therapy, and about a quarter had studied audiology. There are not many audiology graduates each year in the UK, and they usually go on to jobs as – you guessed it – audiologists (mostly in hospitals). Speech science or therapy graduates often go straight into speech therapy jobs when they graduate, although you don't absolutely have to be a speech therapist if you take the course. Graduates from last year in this subject went into a surprisingly wide range of jobs – but were largely in health or childcare roles.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

- Speech therapist
- Audiologist
- Clinical researcher

Other real-life job examples

- Welfare support officer
- Medical technician
- Special needs teaching specialist

What employers like about this subject

A speech therapy and/ or audiology degree will provide you with subject-specific skills including the physiology and biology of speech and hearing; communication with individuals with difficulties in speech and/ or hearing; the principles of speech and language development, and an understanding of clinical research methodology and how to conduct and interpret clinical research. Transferable skills you can gain from a speech therapy course include excellent communication skills, problem-solving and making decisions under pressure. Graduates from the discipline tend to work in schools, hospitals, specialist health practices, social care organisations and healthcare regulators.

Veterinary medicine

This very popular five-year course, only offered by a few universities, qualifies you to practice as a veterinary surgeon. You'll first learn about the structure and functions of healthy animals before tackling the diseases that affect them, how to manage these and the surgical know-how needed to treat domestic, farm or zoo animals. You need a passion for animal welfare, an aptitude for science and great communication skills. Vets work in private surgeries, for animal charities, for government departments and in biomedical research.

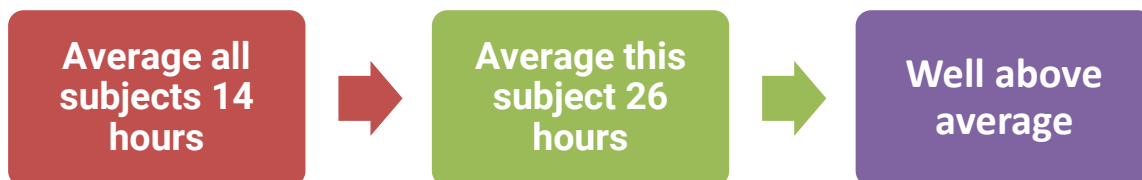
- VOCATIONAL
- PRACTICAL PLACEMENTS
- TIME IN LABS
- PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
- EXAM-INTENSIVE
- TIME ABROAD
- SCIENCE
- PRACTICAL WORK
- BVSC
- ANIMALS

Example course modules

- Animal health science
- Animal disease
- Animal husbandry, welfare and health
- Veterinary musculoskeletal systems
- Clinical management
- Animal health and handling
- Neurobiology and animal behaviour
- Public health, epidemiology and welfare
- Veterinary practical techniques
- Lymphoreticular cell biology

Teaching hours / week

The time you'll spend in lectures and seminars each week will vary from university to university, so use this as a guide.



League tables for this subject

[The Guardian](#) [The Complete University Guide](#) [The Times](#)

What students say about veterinary medicine

The course is very challenging and interesting with high lecture content that is complemented by many practical sessions. The facilities are good with a wide range of practical sessions available e.g. histology/ histopathology sessions, lab sessions, anatomy sessions and clinical skills. The only disadvantage is that student numbers in a practical session can be too large for each individual to be able to make full use of the facilities available e.g. number of histology slides and microscopes are limited.

2nd year, University of Liverpool

I'm studying veterinary science - the course is pretty intense. I'd say it averages about 15 to 20 hours per week of lectures. We have lectures, histology sessions, dissections, the clinical skills lab and some practical visits. The course is very interesting and my first year has been challenging, but I'd say more because of the quantity rather than the actual content. Some of it has been a bit of a follow up on A-level biology and chemistry content.

1st year, University of Liverpool

I am studying veterinary medicine, so the course is very challenging. We have on average 30 timetabled hours a week, which includes a mix of lectures, practicals and group work. The course is arranged into body systems based modules (e.g. 'musculoskeletal', 'urinary'), and I find the content very interesting and challenging. Assessment is predominantly by exams (online multiple choice, written short answer paper and practical assessments) in January and June. A few modules are partly assessed by coursework.

2nd year, University of Nottingham

A-levels (or equivalent) usually required

- Chemistry
- Biology

Useful to have

- Physics
- Mathematics

Application checklist

- October application
- Personal statement
- Interview
- Entry test
- Work experience

BHASVIC information 2019

See end of guide

Career prospects

Some encouraging stats for would-be vets! Most graduates get jobs – as vets – on graduation and starting salaries are much higher than average. From time to time, there are concerns that there are shortages of vets in some parts of the country, or in certain areas - not many graduates go on to academic research, for example - but the UK is currently producing a few hundred graduate vets every year. Not surprisingly, they work in mainly rural areas, and are much less likely than most other graduates to work in London.

Transferable skills

Teamwork, IT & Technology, Problem solving, Social Skills, Organisation, Numeracy, Communication, Attention to detail, Analytics, Project Management, Leadership, Social Care

Jobs where this degree is useful

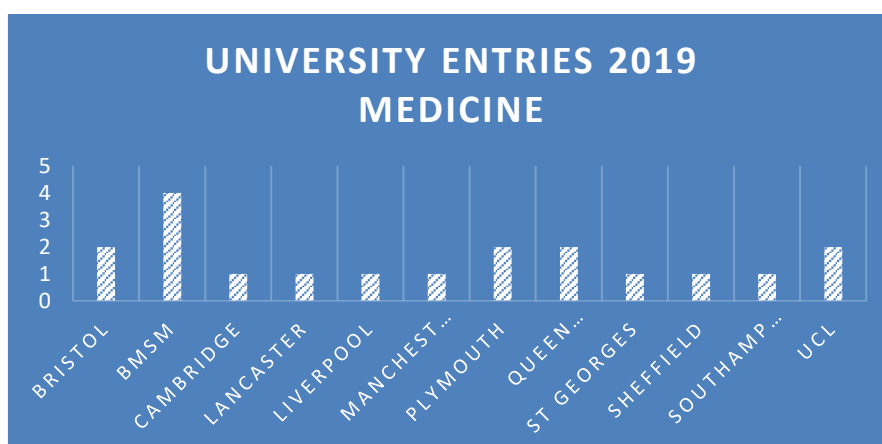
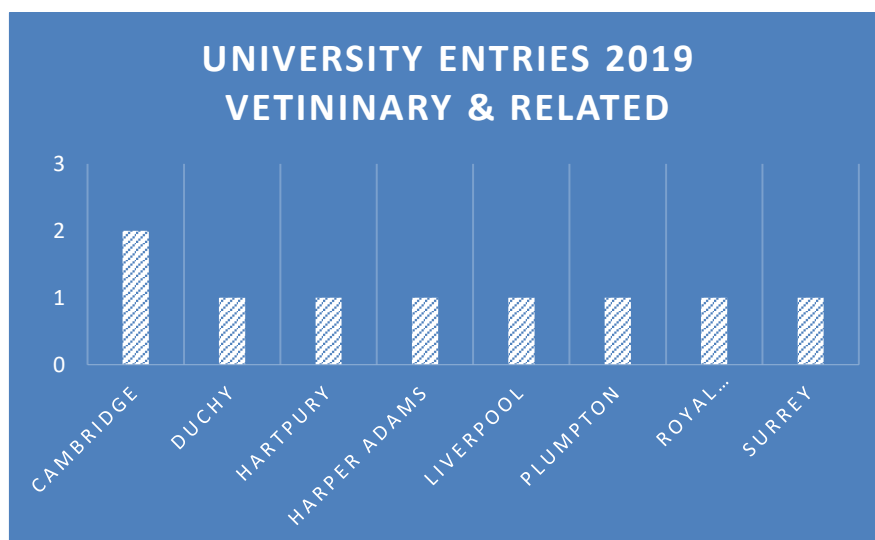
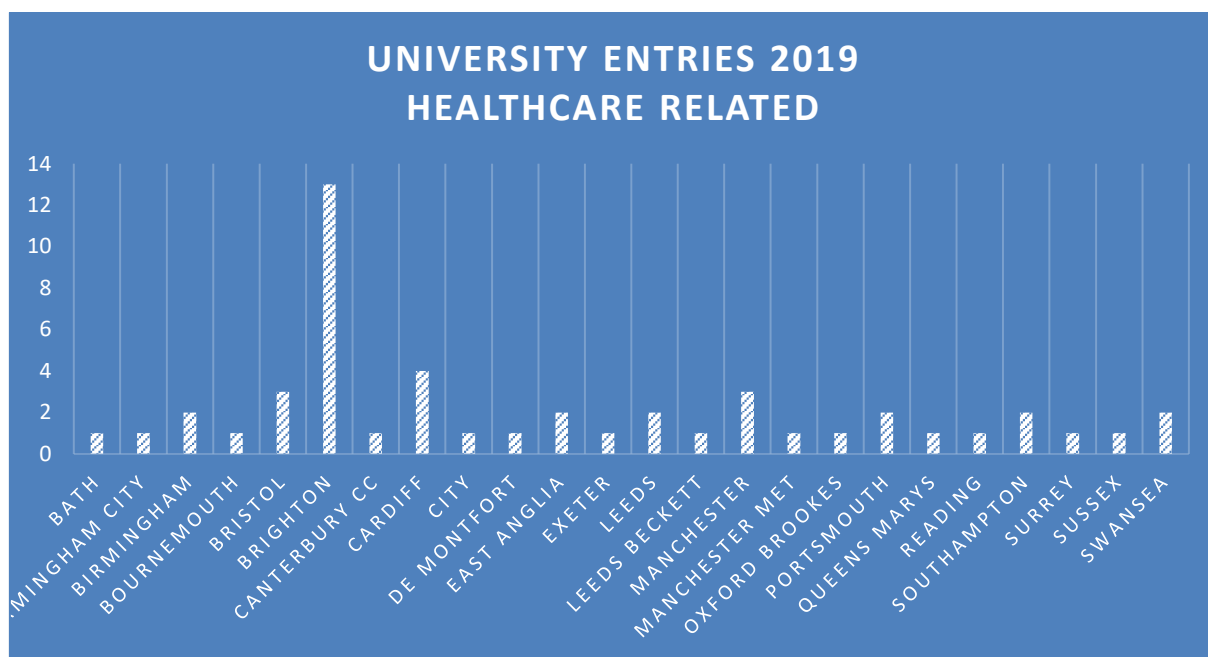
- Veterinary surgeon
- Veterinary investigation officer
- Research veterinarian

What employers like about this subject

Students taking a veterinary science or medicine degree can expect to learn skills in animal health and nutrition; the investigation, diagnosis and treatment of animal conditions; understanding of animal behaviour and the principles of animal welfare. You will also gain useful transferable skills such as good communication, problem-solving and decision-making skills. Most veterinary science graduates work in general practice, but they can also get jobs with a range of government directorates and inspectorates, with the Armed Forces and in natural sciences research for private companies or at universities.

In Sept 2019, 49 BHASVIC students began Medical-related degrees at 24 different universities

In addition, 9 students went onto study veterinary science & related degrees, and 19 students went onto study medicine.



- **Oxford, Cambridge, Glasgow, Swansea, UCL**
- **Queen Mary's, Newcastle, Bristol, Sheffield** – all very high student satisfaction scores
- **Aberdeen, Exeter, BSMS, Cardiff** - all with 100% top graduate prospects

Examples of degrees and combined degrees for BHASVIC student's 2019 entry


- Diagnostic Radiography
- Pharmacy with Integrated Foundation Year
- Adult Nursing
- Midwifery
- Physiotherapy Medicine - MBChB Standard entry (5 years)
- Medicine - MBChB Standard entry (5 years)
- Medicine and Surgery
- Medicine (5 year)
- Medicine (Phase One)
- Medicine (6 years)
- Medical Sciences
- Applied Anatomy
- Physiotherapy
- Osteopathy
- Children's Nursing
- Nursing (Child)
- Adult Nursing (September) with Foundation Year
- Paramedic Science
- Podiatry Veterinary Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine and Science
- Veterinary Gateway Programme
- Animal Behaviour and Welfare (Clinical)

Sources & Links

SOURCE: [GRADUATE PROSPECTS](#)

SOURCE: [WHICH? STUDENT SURVEY](#)

SOURCES: [HESA](#) & [HEPI-HEA](#)

Health and Social Care 	In Health & Social Care there is: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• University Courses.• Careers in HSC.• Roles in HSC.• Work experience/ Volunteering opportunities.	BHASVLE under the Sociology and HSC page HSC careers and Progression
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<https://targetcareers.co.uk/uni/degree-subject-guides>

<https://www.whatuni.com/advice/guides/subject-guides/>

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<https://universitycompare.com/guides/subject/>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/advice/which-subject-should-you-study-university>

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors>

<https://www.bapo.com/2018/09/28/i-see-the-difference-campaign/>,

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/careers/take-the-test>.