

Alternatives to Medicine



Russell Group Teachers and Advisers Conference

16th June 2021

Jo Bowers – Widening Access Officer, University of Warwick

Mark Patterson – Educational Engagement Lead Officer (Health Sciences), University of Leeds



Headlines
like these...

Millions of Britons clap for carers on coronavirus frontline

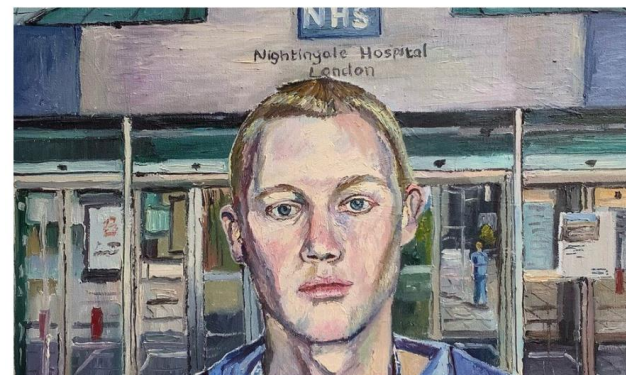
People take to doorsteps, balconies and windows to show appreciation for health workers

- [Coronavirus - latest updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)



NHS heroes to feature in Royal Society of Portrait Painters exhibition

© 27 April



Covid: Scientists developing vaccine boosters to tackle variants

© 8 February



Coronavirus pandemic



...have led to headlines like these.



Home > News, blogs and events > News > Huge jump in visits to Health Careers website as thousands consider a career in healthcare

Huge jump in visits to Health Careers website as thousands consider a career in healthcare

17 April 2020

The Health Careers website has seen a 223% increase in the number of people expressing an interest in a career in nursing, show figures published by Health Education England (HEE) today.

It comes at a time when thousands of nurses have returned to the NHS and student nurses have joined the fight against Covid-19 and appears to be inspiring a new generation of people to take their first steps to an NHS career.

Between March 16 to April 15 2020. 887.000 people visited the website which is a 47% increase compared to the same period last year. The biggest

'There's so much respect for the NHS right now': interest in healthcare degrees on the rise

Interest in healthcare jobs has soared since the pandemic, and even in a downturn there will be good employment prospects



Coronavirus: Lack of university training places as interest in nursing as a career surges

NHS has a shortage of nurses, despite record recruitment in last five years

Shaun Lintern Health Correspondent | @ShaunLintern | Tuesday 12 May 2020 18:37 | comments





Care



Science



Policy



Why not Medicine?

There are many reasons students may choose not to study Medicine:

- Entry requirements and qualifications
- Competitive application process
- Duration and cost of study
- Scope of practice

There are however hundreds of alternative patient facing careers that are accessible to a wide range of students.

Careers within the NHS

- 350 different careers available in the National Health Service
- No matter the role, everyone makes a difference to people's lives every day
- Excellent graduate prospects
- Starting salary of £24,000+ for most newly qualified clinical professionals
- Opportunities to develop further once qualified





Skills and Attributes

Common range of skills and attributes that are essential to everyone working within healthcare:

- Good communication skills
- Team work
- Care, compassion and empathy
- Honesty and professionalism
- Time management and organisation

Must have an interest with **working with people** from a wide variety of backgrounds

Nursing

Four main branches of Nursing:

- Adult Nursing
- Children's Nursing
- Learning Disability Nursing
- Mental Health Nursing

Advocates for their patients, varied and rewarding careers working in various settings with different client groups



Midwifery

Midwives provide care and support to women and their families while pregnant, throughout labour and during the period after a baby's birth

Independent practitioners who are advocates for women and their care



Allied Health Professions

15 different professions across the Allied Health Professions (AHPs), working within varied scopes of practice.

A wide range of roles from Diagnostic Radiographers and Therapeutic Radiographers to Operating Department Practitioners and Occupational Therapists



Healthcare Sciences

Four areas within Healthcare Sciences – clinical bioinformatics, life sciences, physical sciences and biomedical engineering, and physiological sciences

Within the physiological sciences alone there are 11 different roles!

A combination of both lab based and patient facing roles



...plus many more!

- Pharmacy
- Psychological professions
- Optometry
- Social Work
- Physician's Associate...

Find out more - healthcareers.nhs.uk



STEM focused degrees

- Biomedical Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Biological Sciences
- Neuroscience
- Biomedical Systems Engineering
- Integrated Science
- Medicinal Chemistry
- MBChB – graduate entry route





Medicine and Paramedic
NHS scientists
Biomedical research and development
scientists
Scientific publishing professionals
Laboratory technicians
Teachers
Business, marketing and accountancy
professionals
Postgraduate student or researcher
Drug Discovery and Development
Public Health

The Hooke Science Programme
CF10 MSci Integrated Science

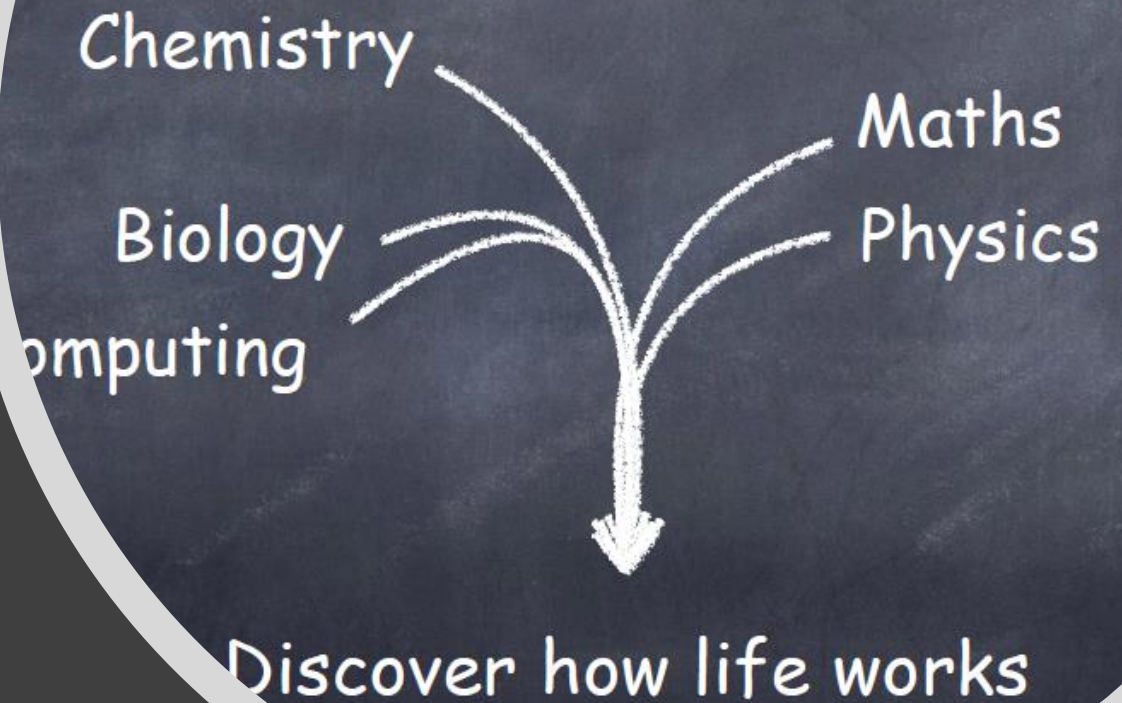
Integrated Science MSc

Creating the scientific researchers of the future

Learning firsthand by doing research

Equal lab and classroom time from the outset

Answering the big questions like 'what are the building blocks of life?'



Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry

Branching into medicinal chemistry applies chemical knowledge to the discovery, design and synthesis of new drugs for clinical use.

Explore the process of medicinal drug discovery, starting from the initial concept of a new product, to the discovery stage, clinical trials, scale-up, and production.



Medicine MBChB – Graduate Entry route

4 year course for graduates

At Warwick, first degree doesn't have to be medicine related, but experience is key

Doesn't have to be a 'plan B'

Excellent option for those not quite ready at 18



Health Policy

Health and Medical Sciences

Digital Healthcare Sciences

Public Health



Health Policy

Public health practice

Occupational Health

Private practice

Health services management

Non-Governmental Organisations

Corporate Social Responsibility

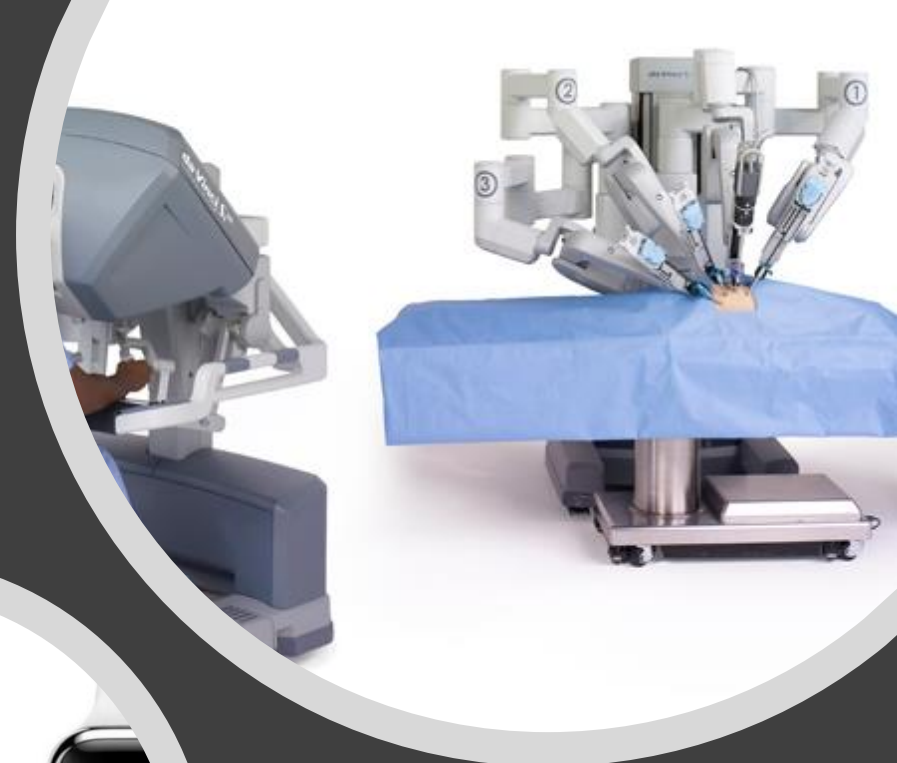


Digital Healthcare Science

Supporting clinical decision making and helping patients manage their own health conditions

Individuals and services often need the support of shared decision-making

Combining technology and data sciences to inform decisions about public health, as well as individual health decisions.



Integrated modules: problems in health

Concepts in Health and Medical Science

Systems: Cell to Society

Illness: Susceptibility and Inequality

Wellbeing: Mental Health and Neurobiology

Food: Nutrition and Malnutrition

Infection: Prevention and Outbreaks

Interactions: Environment and Gene

Advanced cases (problems in health)

Dissertation research project

Transdisciplinary Perspectives

Health Sciences

Health Care Systems
Health and Wealth
Global Health
Psychology of Health
Human Behaviour
Prevalence
Epidemiology
Prevention
Health and Society
Patient Safety

Questions like:

How do dietary choices impact health?
Why is there a high prevalence of Obesity in the UK?
Why do people do things that are not good for them?

Medical Sciences

Organelles and Cells
Tissues, Organs and Systems
Genetics and Epigenetics
Microbiology
Physiology
Anatomy
Pharmacology
Virology
Immunology
Discovery Science

Questions like:

How do genes interact with each other and the environment?
What is the molecular mechanism of different diseases?
What are the physiological effects of chronic stress?

BSc Health and Medical Sciences: Making a change to problems in health

“I’m thinking
about
studying
Medicine”

Do you like working with people?

Would you rather focus on scientific research
and testing?

Are you interested in how decisions about
healthcare are made on an individual, national
and international level?

Supporting Aspiring Healthcare Students

A whole host of various resources available online:

- Virtual Summer Schools
- Online Webinars and Workshops
- MOOCs

Contact local NHS trusts about work experience / shadowing opportunities

Research / contact specific universities for work experience requirements



Financial Support for Healthcare Students

New annual payments of at least £5,000 for all eligible undergraduate students on specific healthcare courses

Additional funding for specialist subject areas, childcare costs and where recruitment is particularly hard

This is in addition to support from maintenance loans and bursaries and grants from individual institutions

Find out more – ‘NHS Learning Support Fund’





UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Mark Patterson, Educational Engagement Lead Officer (Health Sciences)

Email: M.S.Patterson@leeds.ac.uk

Team Email: medicineandhealth@leeds.ac.uk

Twitter: [@MHOutreachLeeds](https://twitter.com/MHOutreachLeeds)

Website: www.healthsciences.leeds.ac.uk

Jo Bowers, Widening Access Officer

Email: joanne.bowers@warwick.ac.uk

Team Email: outreach@warwick.ac.uk

Twitter: [@OutreachWarwick](https://twitter.com/OutreachWarwick)

Website: www.warwick.ac.uk/outreach