

Discover a career path in
MEDICINE



HEON
HIGHER EDUCATION
OUTREACH NETWORK

Dentist
Doctor
Midwife
Nurse
Optometrist

Paramedic
Pharmacist
Radiographer
Vet
Zoologist

This guide has been prepared for you to discover a range of different careers. Each of the pages outlines some key information about a particular career. If there is something of interest, we recommend using the information as a starting point and researching more online. Some suggested subjects to study are listed on each of the career pages. These are just ideas and exact entry requirements should be checked with each institution when applying. It should also be noted that most higher education courses will have a minimum GCSE requirement.

The Higher Education Outreach Network (HEON) is a partnership of local organisations including universities and colleges working in Surrey and Northeast Hampshire. The partnership is made up of the following institutions, many of whom offer courses that can lead to the careers listed in this guide:



Work experience can be a fantastic way to find out more about a job or industry you may be interested in. It's also a great way to gain and demonstrate experience for your future college, university, and job applications. It's worth reaching out to employers to ask about opportunities, and your school or college careers leader can help you with this.

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL LINKS TO GET YOU STARTED:



AND YOU CAN ALWAYS LOOK AT VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE OPTIONS TO COMPLETE AT HOME OR AT YOUR OWN PACE:



@HEONPARTNERSHIP
HEON@SURREY.AC.UK



So you want to be a DENTIST

Dentistry is a major branch of medicine, which includes teeth and related structures such as the head and neck. It includes the study of dental care, prevention and treatment of dental diseases, screening for oral cancers, managing trauma, orthodontics and oral surgery.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Interest in scientific knowledge particularly human anatomy and oral disease processes
- Good manual dexterity
- Ability to offer advice and educate others
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Great people skills
- Problem solving
- Decision making

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

- Dentist (NHS, Private, Military Etc.)
- Dental Hygienist
- Dental Technician

In addition to this there are several roles which have transferable skills such as:

- Orthodontist
- Medical Lecturer
- Clinical Academic
- Laboratory Technician
- Endodontist
- Health Aid Worker

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

Dentistry is a competitive course. Universities often have high entry requirements. The sciences are particularly key for students wishing to study dentistry. Particular subjects required may include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Human Biology
- Maths
- Physics
- Psychology

CHECK THESE OUT

The British Dental Journal

Dentistry.co.uk provides an overview of current affairs within dentistry

This Is Going To Hurt:

Secret Diaries of A Junior Doctor
by Adam Kay



Average salary
£65,441
with a range from
£34,728 to £96,154
35-40 hrs a week



So you want to be a DOCTOR

Medicine focuses on helping people by providing advice, treating illness and understanding the effects of ill health and good health on the patients themselves. Doctors practice medicine to diagnose and treat disease, illness, injuries and other conditions.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Concern and interest in people
- Problem-solving
- Working well under pressure
- Hardworking over long periods
- Patient and determined
- Decision-making with confidence
- Willingness to learn

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

- Doctor in a hospital or as a GP
- Can specialise in anaesthesia, surgery, emergency medicine etc.
- Can become a specialist or consultant, or serve in the forces as a doctor/medical officer, or mentor medical students in education, or even enter clinical research

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

Medicine is a competitive course with universities often requiring a high entry requirement for their courses. The sciences are particularly key for students wishing to study medicine. Subjects to consider include:

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Maths

CHECK THESE OUT

The Other Side
by Kate Granger

The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat
by Oliver Sacks

This Is Going to Hurt book and TV Series
by Adam Kay



GP average salary
£71,996
per year and
45-50hrs/week
(could work evenings/
weekends/bank holidays)



Hospital Doctor
average salary
£64,566
per year and
42-48hrs/week





So you want to be a **NURSE**

Nurses care for patients of all ages suffering from health conditions which range from minor injuries to long-term illnesses, either in a hospital or community setting. There is a range of types of nurses including adult nurses, children's nurses and mental health nurses.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Flexibility, multi-tasking and adaptability
- Excellent communication and observation skills
- Care and compassion to reassure and advise people
- Ability to offer advice and answer questions
- Ability to deal with emotional situations
- Commitment and willingness to learn
- Excellent teamwork

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

Nurses can be based in a hospital or the community, working with doctors, physios, occupational therapists and pharmacists etc.

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Sociology

CHECK THESE OUT

Ross and Wilson
Anatomy & Physiology in Health and Illness

The BBC series
'Life and Birth'

The Royal Marsden
Manual of Clinical Nursing



Average salary
£33,384
with a range from
£27,055 to £40,588
37-42hrs/week
(may work evenings, weekends and bank holidays)

So you want to be a **PARAMEDIC**



Paramedics are senior healthcare professionals who may work with other specialists in accidents or medical emergencies. They provide first aid medical care to stabilise patients for transport to the hospital or advise them on the most appropriate healthcare service for them.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Teamwork
- Communication and listening
- Adaptation and flexibility
- Good decision-making
- Able to work under pressure
- Customer service skills
- Patience, sensitivity and understanding

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

After about 3 years of experience, it is possible to become a team leader, a specialist paramedic or an emergency care practitioner. Other options include operations management, education/training, research or training to work in other healthcare areas e.g. nursing.

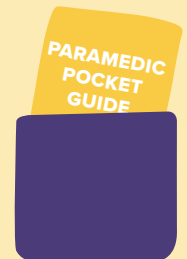
SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

- Science
- Health Science
- Social Sciences

CHECK THESE OUT

Ambulance Care Essentials

Paramedic Pocket Guide, UK Edition



Average salary
£27,312
with a range from
£25,655 to £39,027
36-38hrs/week
(may work evenings, weekends and bank holidays)

So you want to be a MIDWIFE

Midwives provide advice, care and support for women and their babies during pregnancy, labour and the early postnatal period. They help women make decisions about the care and services available to them.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Communication and observation
- People skills
- Interest in physical and psychological aspects of pregnancy and birth
- Good at dealing with emotional situations
- Offering advice and reassurance
- Good teamwork

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

- Community Midwife
- Health Visitor
- Intensive Care Neonatal Nurse
- Maternity Nurse
- Midwife Sonographer
- National Childbirth Trust Accredited Teacher
- Social Worker

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

- Biology
- Sciences
- Social Sciences

CHECK THESE OUT

Call *The Midwife* TV Show and Book

The Secret Midwife: Life, Death and the Truth about Birth



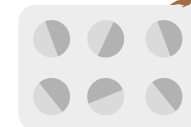
WATCH THE TV SERIES TOO

Average salary
£37,950
with a range from
£25,654 to £45,838
35-40hrs/week
(may work evenings, weekends and bank holidays)



So you want to be a PHARMACIST

Pharmacology degrees tend to be more research-focused whereas Pharmacy degrees are more practical-focused and introduce students to the investigation of the effects of chemicals and the creation of new remedies.



SKILLS REQUIRED

- Excellent problem-solving skills
- Analytical thinking and reasoning skills
- Be thorough and pay attention to detail
- IT, maths and science skills

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

- Pharmacologist
- Toxicologist
- Pharmacist (requires a specific pharmacy degree)

Other careers include:

- Pathologist
- Pharmaceutical Technician
- Health Economist

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Maths
- Physics
- Physiology

CHECK THESE OUT

Medical Pharmacology at a Glance

Aulton's Pharmaceutics: The Design and Manufacture of Medicines
by Michael Aulton



Average salary
£44,706
with a range from
£25,000 to £50,000
38-40hrs/week
(may work evenings, weekends and bank holidays)



So you want to be a OPTOMETRIST

As an Optometrist, you can work in a variety of places including retail opticians, hospitals and in the private sector. Being an Optometrist generally involves communicating with patients to get detailed case histories and examining the eyes of patients of all ages to detect signs of injury, disease, abnormality or vision defects. As an optometrist you will also be trained to be aware of signs and symptoms of general health conditions (eg. diabetes).

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Attention to detail
- Communication
- Critical thinking and decision making
- Organisation
- Problem-solving
- Research
- Team working
- Time management

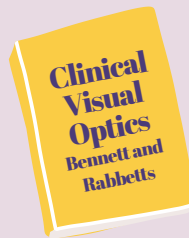
CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

- Ophthalmic Optician
- Dispensing Optician
- Ophthalmology
- Radiography
- Orthoptics

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Maths
- Physics
- Applied Science
- Psychology

CHECK THESE OUT
Clinical Visual Optics,
Bennett and Rabbetts
Open Your Eyes
documentary



Average salary
£54,141

with a range from
£31,365 to £62,001
36-38hrs/week
(may work evenings, weekends
and bank holidays)



So you want to be a RADIOGRAPHER

Radiography is a medical field that can be split into two different types: Diagnostic and Therapeutic. Diagnostic radiography is where you, as the Radiographer, will work as part of a team with doctors to find patients a diagnosis using technology such as MRI, X-rays, CT scanning and Ultrasound. Therapeutic radiography is the treatment and care of these patients using different types of radiation.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Empathy and strong emotional intelligence
- Good communication skills
- Ability to work under pressure
- A team player
- IT skills and an interest in technology
- Decision making

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

Most graduates will gain employment as a Diagnostic or Therapeutic Radiographers. You can specialise in areas such as:

- Accident and Emergency
- Sonography
- Mammography
- Palliative Care
- Children

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

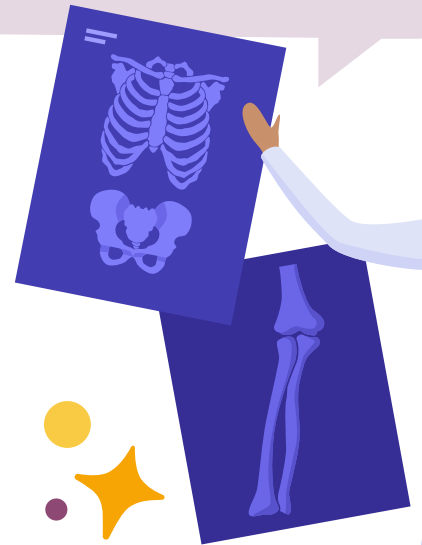
At least 1 Science

Other useful subjects:

- Mathematics
- Statistics
- PE
- Psychology

CHECK THESE OUT
Work experience with
organisations such as
St John Ambulance
is recommended.

Bones and Joints:
A Guide for Students



Average salary
£28,918
with a range from
£25,654 to £45,838
30-40hrs/week
(may work evenings, weekends
and bank holidays)



So you want to be a **VET**

Veterinary Medicine is a career dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases in animals. It is the duty of the Veterinary Surgeon to uphold animal welfare.



SKILLS REQUIRED

- A love of animals
- Communication
- Leadership
- Team Working
- Problem-solving
- Staying calm under pressure
- Decision making
- Attention to detail
- Dexterity

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

- Veterinary Surgeon
- General Practice (Farm, Equine, Small Animal or mixed)
- Specialist
- Zoo Vet
- Researcher
- Pathologist
- Army Veterinary Officer
- Government Veterinary Officer

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

Essential

- Biology
- Chemistry

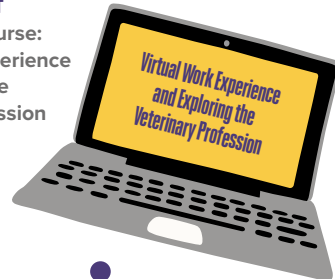
Other preferred subjects

- Physics
- Mathematics
- History
- English Literature
- Psychology

Work Experience before admission is also essential.

CHECK THIS OUT

Future Learn Course:
Virtual Work Experience and Exploring the Veterinary Profession



Average salary
£45,742
with a range from
£30,000 to £50,000
40-45hrs/week
(may work evenings, weekends and bank holidays)



So you want to be a **ZOOLOGIST**

Zoology is the study of the animal kingdom covering everything from big to small! You will study cell biology and genetics at a microscopic level as well as understanding animal behaviour, conservation and sustainability.

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Research skills
- Analysis and interpretation
- Problem-solving
- Communication

CAREERS THAT ARE AVAILABLE

- Zoologist
- Zookeeper
- Conservationist
- Researcher
- Medical or Scientific Writer
- Animal Welfare Officer

SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER TAKING AT SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

Highly recommended:

- Chemistry
- Biology

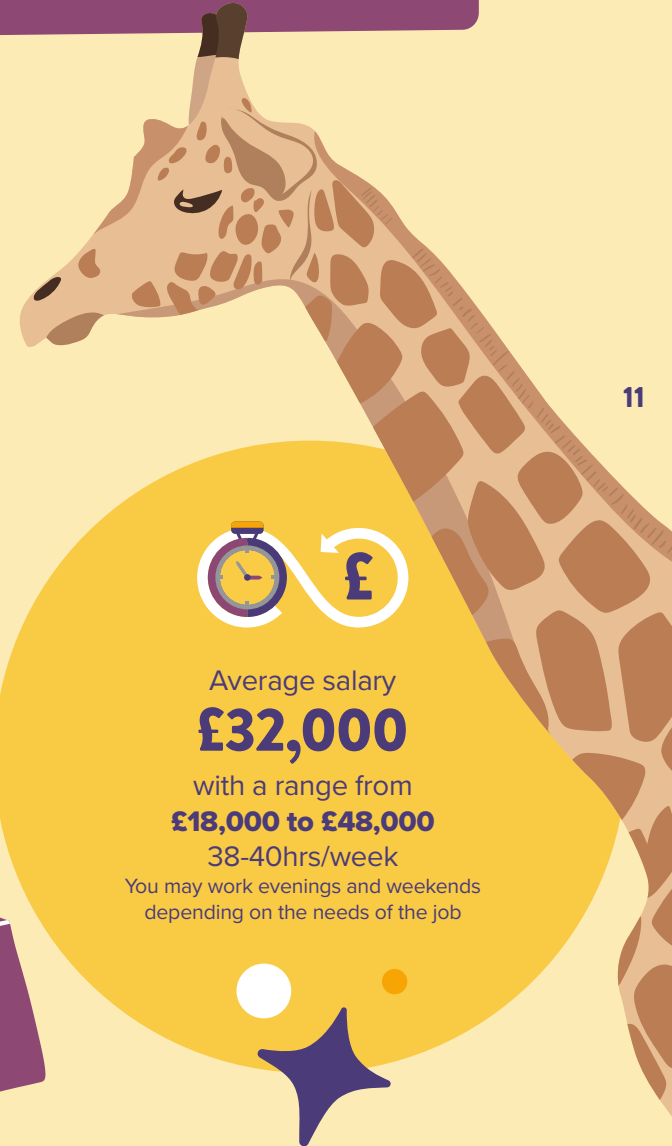
Useful subjects

- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

CHECK THESE OUT

Many of David Attenborough's documentaries! Particularly Our Planet

'Almost Like a Whale'
by Steve Jones



Average salary
£32,000
with a range from
£18,000 to £48,000
38-40hrs/week
You may work evenings and weekends depending on the needs of the job



There are multiple pathways you may wish to consider including apprenticeships, higher education courses and school leaver programmes.

If you are looking to apply to university HEON has prepared the following steps to support, you:



If you are considering applying for an apprenticeship a similar application process would be required however you would need to apply directly. You can find out more details about this and a wealth of other information on the HEON Hub at:



A day in the life of a SURREY VET STUDENT

I'm Hannah Meadows, a second-year vet student, and I'm hoping to give you a bit of an insight into life at vet school.



7:30AM – MORNING

My alarm usually goes off at 7:30am, when I'll reluctantly roll out of bed (eventually!), get dressed, grab some breakfast cereal and a hot chocolate to get ready for the day. This year I'm living with 4 other vet students of varying year groups (two 2nd years, one 3rd year and two 5th years), which is lovely as I didn't live with any vets in first year.

9AM – VET SCHOOL

When we are at the vet school, lectures can be at any time of the day between 9am and 5pm. I usually have 4 lectures each day (except Wednesdays when I have the afternoon off, like the rest of the uni), which are generally organised into their modules – one module each day out of the 4 modules for each semester.

I also have practical sessions which can either be in the anatomy lab, teaching lab, clinical skills lab, large animal clinical skills area or off-site. In first year, I had animal handling off-site twice a week for the first few weeks and lots of anatomy practicals whereas second year has had a more laboratory based approach in the teaching

lab so far, which I like because it's my favourite type of practical, second only to animal handling! I usually have 2 or 3 practicals per week although this is much more variable than the number of lectures.

In between the lectures and practicals, I will do some revision if it's getting close to exams, some independent work preparing for practicals or doing coursework or just chill if it's been a busy day. I like to try to go for an hour's walk at some point during the day if possible, it helps me clear my head and get some fresh air.

6PM – EVENING

Once vet school is finished for the day, I make some dinner (with varying degrees of success), wash up and get on with the evening's activities. I don't like to keep working into the evenings and weekends so I try to work as efficiently as I can to get it done before 6pm during the week, although that's sometimes impossible! This means that I can head off to a society, either concert band, Christian Union or another event being run by the uni or settle down to do some crafts or watch a film (or Bake Off) with my housemate.

If you have seen a career you would like to find out more about or would like to look at the full range of options then there is a wealth of information available online. Take a look at some of the links below to find out more.



WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE

Different pathways are explained on this interactive webpage.

HEON STUDENTS HUB

A wide variety of resources are available to look at a range of different pathways. There are also profiles from students at a range of Higher Education providers.

START PROFILE

Check out your options, complete activities to explore the world of work and improve your employability.

CAREERPILOT

A page packed with information about lots of different industries.

SUCCESS AT SCHOOL

Explore careers, get the lowdown on top employers, and search for the latest jobs, apprenticeships, courses and advice.

I THINK I MIGHT LIKE UNIVERSITY, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START...

BRIGHT KNOWLEDGE

Tips on how to choose what to study both at school and university.

WHICH? UNIVERSITY GUIDE

A LEVEL EXPLORER

Put some subjects in and see what pops out - be sure to check the unexpected degree options.

MOVING FROM BTECS TO UNIVERSITY STUDY

Explore your options with BTEC studies.

CAREERPILOT

Packed with information about university, courses and additional info.

UCAS

Search through all university courses here.

WHAT UNI?

Compare university and degree courses with rankings, course details and profiles.

WHAT IF I DON'T THINK UNIVERSITY IS FOR ME?

APPRENTICESHIP FINDER

Search for different apprenticeships in a range of areas with a variety of providers.

AMAZING APPRENTICESHIP

Explore resources, research and apply to apprenticeships.

SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

Find an apprenticeship guide, tips on applying and search for an apprenticeship here.

CAREERPILOT

Use the 'Get Info' menu to find out more about apprenticeships and work based learning.

STUDENT LADDER

Search over 2,500 positions for work experience, internships, apprenticeships and graduate schemes.

The information in the booklet has been collected from a range of sources and all information provided is correct at the time of printing (Jan 2023) and is subject to change without notice. Please do check all details when you apply for any courses.