

Job of The Week

Biochemist

Key Skills

- knowledge of Biology
- Maths knowledge
- analytical thinking skills
- knowledge of Chemistry including the safe use and disposal of chemicals
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- excellent verbal communication skills
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently
- concentration skills
- thinking and reasoning skills

Salary

£24,000 - £50,000

Working hours

38 – 40 hours a week
evenings
on shifts

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Biochemist

University

You'll usually need a relevant science degree, like:

- biochemistry
- biotechnology
- biopharmaceuticals
- chemical and molecular biology
- microbiology genetics
- molecular biology

If you do not meet the entry requirements for one of these subjects, you may be able to do a foundation year.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English, Maths and science or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including biology and chemistry. A degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study

Career path and progression

Look at progression in this role and similar opportunities.

With experience, you could:

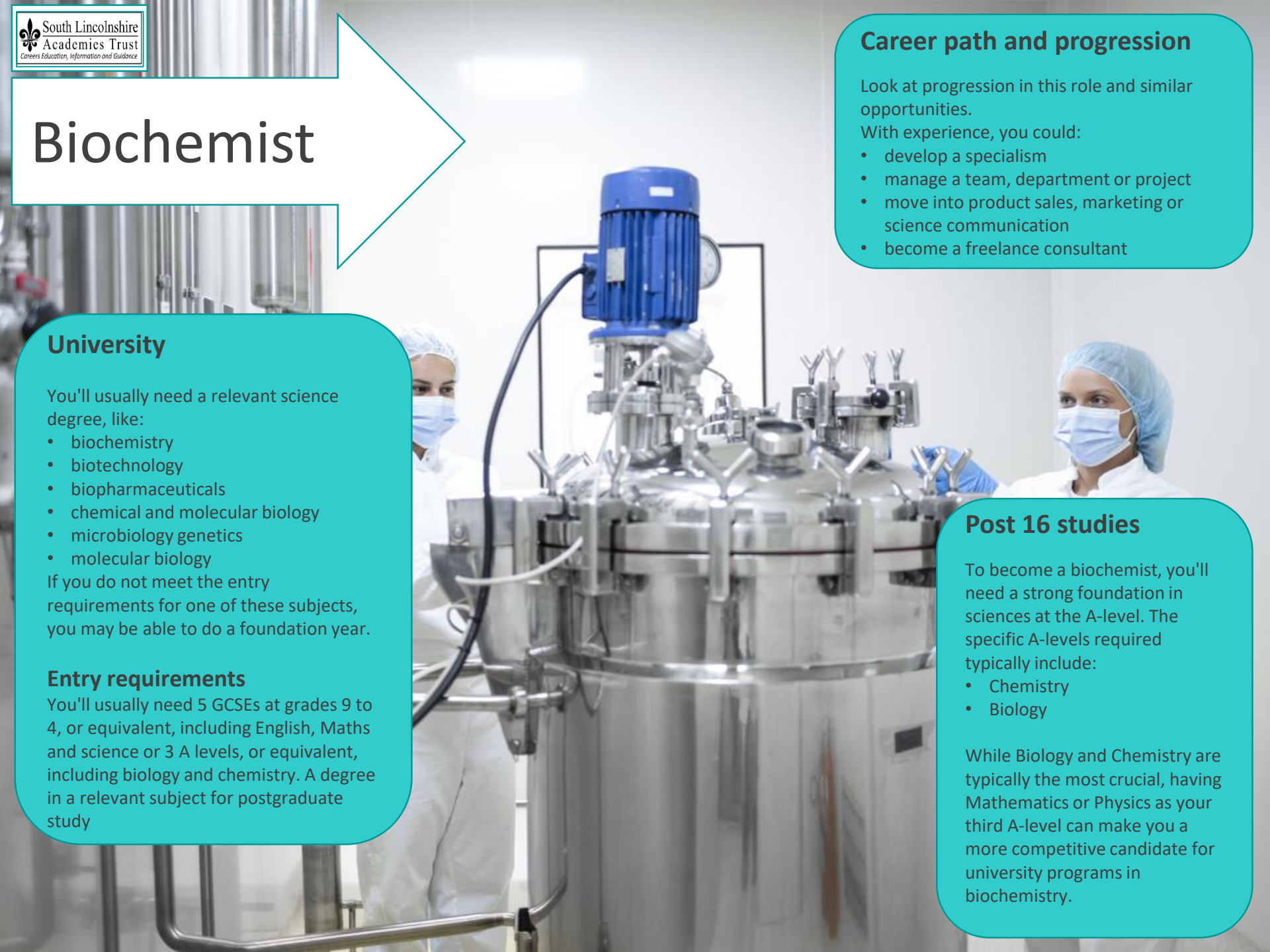
- develop a specialism
- manage a team, department or project
- move into product sales, marketing or science communication
- become a freelance consultant

Post 16 studies

To become a biochemist, you'll need a strong foundation in sciences at the A-level. The specific A-levels required typically include:

- Chemistry
- Biology

While Biology and Chemistry are typically the most crucial, having Mathematics or Physics as your third A-level can make you a more competitive candidate for university programs in biochemistry.



Other Routes

You could train to be a clinical biochemist in the NHS through the NHS Scientist Training Programme (STP).

Day to Day tasks:

Biochemists work in many sectors of the economy.

You could work in areas such as disease, pharmaceutical drugs, food products or academic research. You may also teach at a university.

In most roles you can expect to:

- follow official lab procedures
- design or build lab equipment
- plan and conduct scientific experiments
- develop new analytical techniques
- use computer software and mathematical modelling
- supervise lab teams and control the quality of work
- write scientific articles, prepare reports and present research findings

Working conditions

You could work at a research facility, in a laboratory or at a university.

You may need to wear protective clothing.

Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Biological scientists and biochemists

Weekly Pay £810	Annual Pay £42,120
Hours/Week 37h	Hourly Pay £22

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 2.4%	Replacement 38.9%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 2.4% over the period to 2027, creating 2,600 jobs.
In the same period, 38.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 42,600 job openings.

You might find this job in
Health
Scientific research
Education
Public admin. & defence
Architectural & related

[More info](#)

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Physical scientists

Weekly Pay £920	Annual Pay £47,840
Hours/Week 42h	Hourly Pay £22

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 2.4%	Replacement 38.9%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 2.4% over the period to 2027, creating 700 jobs.
In the same period, 38.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 12,000 job openings.

You might find this job in
Architectural & related
Scientific research
Education
Head offices, etc
Health

[More info](#)

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Natural and social science professionals n.e.c.

Weekly Pay £840	Annual Pay £43,680
Hours/Week 41h	Hourly Pay £20

Workforce Change (projected)

Growth 2.4%	Replacement 38.9%
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The workforce is projected to grow by 2.4% over the period to 2027, creating 1,100 jobs.
In the same period, 38.9% of the workforce is projected to retire, creating 18,000 job openings.

You might find this job in
Education
Scientific research
Public admin. & defence
Office admin.

[More info](#)

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Labour Market Information

Biological scientists and biochemists

Biological scientists and biochemists examine and investigate the morphology, structure, chemistry and physical characteristics of living organisms, including their inter-relationships, environments and diseases.

Common tasks in this job:

- studies the physical and chemical form, structure, composition and function of living organisms;
- identifies and studies the chemical substances, including microbial infections, involved in physiological processes and the progress of disease;
- performs tests to study physiological and pathological characteristics within cells and other organisms;
- researches the effects of internal and external environmental factors on the life processes and other functions of living organisms;

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Natural and social science professionals n.e.c.

Jobholders in this unit group perform a variety of scientific research and related activities not elsewhere classified in MINOR GROUP 211: Natural and Social Science Professionals.

Common tasks in this job:

- plans, directs and undertakes research into natural phenomena;
- provides technical advisory and consulting services;
- designs tests and experiments to address research objective and find solutions;
- applies models and techniques to medical, industrial, agricultural, military and similar applications;

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Physical scientists

Physical scientists study relationships between matter, energy and other physical phenomena, the nature, composition and structure of the Earth and other planetary bodies and forecast weather conditions and electrical, magnetic, seismic and thermal activity.

Common tasks in this job:

- conducts experiments and tests and uses mathematical models and theories to investigate the structure and properties of matter, transformations and propagations of energy, the behaviour of particles and their interaction with various forms of energy;
- uses surveys, seismology and other methods to determine the earth's mantle, crust, rock structure and type, and to analyse and predict the occurrence of seismological activity;
- observes, records and collates data on atmospheric conditions from weather stations, satellites, and observation vessels to plot and forecast weather conditions;
- applies mathematical models and techniques to assist in the solution of scientific problems in industry and commerce and seeks out new applications of mathematical analysis.

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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our Job of The Week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry...

Useful Websites

[NHS Scientist Training Programme | Health Careers](#)

[Membership \(biochemistry.org\)](#)

[Membership \(rsb.org.uk\)](#)

[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/biochemist](#)

[What can I do with a biochemistry degree? | Prospects.ac.uk](#)

[false \(ucas.com\)](#)

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...

What is a Clinical Biochemist?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4u2EdXvnvo&pp=vgUKYmlvY2hblWlzdA%3D%3D>

Career Callout: Biochemist



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZhESgRBwRY&pp=vgUaQ2FyZWVyiENhbGxvdXQ6lEJpb2NoZW1pc3Q%3D>

Studying BSc (Hons) Biochemistry at Liverpool



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXIW5TLxMcC0&pp=vgUPOmlyY2hblWlzdHJ5IHVr>

Insight into a Clinical Chemistry Lab



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxutOVA7DbI&pp=vgUFYmlyY2hblWlzdHJ5IHRIc3QgaW4gbGFi3JhdG9yeQ%3D%3D>

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