



Learning notes

Discovering Careers

Linked Articles: [How can you work on medical devices?](#)

[Bringing science to life – what’s it like to work as a scientific documentary researcher?](#)

This edition of Catalyst explores the theme of human health. Whether it is looking at how vaccines work, the control of pathogens and fungal infections, exploring stem cells in the brain or engineering human replacement organs and joints. All the articles are linked by scientific research and development and showcase how STEM subject knowledge is vital in taking medical developments forward.

Each author has a career that engages STEM subjects in every aspect of their working day. Showcasing how important their work is and its impact on the world. It is clear how much they enjoy their work and the challenges they face each day using their creativity, logical thinking, and problem-solving skills to make a genuine difference.

When looking at career choices it is important to not only know what you want to do and how you will get there, but that your chosen career path will give you long lasting enjoyment and satisfaction.

Learning Task:

Here are three questions to consider and discuss with friends, teachers, and family.

1. Which of the articles appealed to you the most?
2. What about it inspired you?
3. Whose career would you most like to have and why?

Take your learning further:

Find out more about the many STEM related careers in this edition of Catalyst and investigate jobs that appeal to you. Here are some suggestions:

- Research the role of the author whose job appeals to you the most. What qualifications and experience might you need to do a similar career?
- Find out about the organisations the authors work for, what do they do? Can you see yourself working for those organisations, do they have opportunities you could get involved with?
- Choose a job that you are interested in and find out the qualifications you need to do that job. Which universities provide that qualification? Are there apprenticeships available?
- Ask your teacher or STEM Club leader if they could arrange for STEM Ambassadors to visit and give a talk about their work and how they got their jobs. Maybe you could interview them and hone some of your employability skills.
- Think about getting experience related to the role or project you are interested in such as summer placements or volunteer with similar organisations or projects. If you try it out you’ll know if it’s for you.
- Consider taking part in the Nuffield Research Placement programme and work with scientists on scientific research projects.
- Discuss with family and friends your career aspirations do they know anyone you could talk to with a similar role that you could get advice from?

Take every opportunity to research careers and jobs that interest you, ask around and seek advice. The more you find out, the easier it will be to choose the right path for you. And remember, it's ok to change your mind about a career and try something different.

Take your learning further still:

The following websites have information about careers related to the article topics or are useful general careers guidance. Have a look and see what appeals!

Careers in medicine: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Careers%20in%20medicine_1.pdf

Careers with a medical degree: www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/medicine

Careers involving healthcare: nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/healthcare

Careers involving animal care: nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/animal-care

Medical engineering: www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/physical-sciences-and-biomedical-engineering/medical-engineering

Medical research scientist: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/research-scientist-medical

Film studies: www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/film-studies

Getting started in a film or television career: www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-get-started-in-a-film-or-television-career-1283521

National Careers Service – nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

STEM Learning: www.stem.org.uk/stem-careers