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# Communicating Knowledge & Information

## Grants Officer

**Example advert: European Molecular Biology Laboratory – European Bioinformatics Institute:** The EMBL-EBI is a world-leading bioinformatics centre providing biological data to the scientific community with expertise in data storage, analysis and representation. As a Grants Officer, you will provide a professional service on all aspects of the pre- and post-research award administration to senior scientists. You will act as the main liaison in the management of financial, legal, and grant compliance matters on grant proposals and active grants. You will have a portfolio of over 30 grants, including large collaborative projects. You will need to be confident in conducting organised communication with and between external partners, funding bodies, professional legal, and intellectual property advisors, as well as other members of the EMBL administrative team both at the EMBL-EBI and EMBL-Heidelberg (Germany).

## Science Writer / Journalist

**From Prospects.ac.uk:** Science writers research, write and edit scientific news, articles and features. They write for business, trade and professional publications, specialist scientific and technical journals, and the general media. Writers need to understand complex scientific information, theories and practices. They should be able to write in clear, concise and accurate language that can be understood by the general public. Science writers are sometimes known as scientific journalists. They report on scientific news for the media, sometimes taking on a more investigatory, critical role. Sometimes writers with science degrees take on a further postgraduate qualification in journalism or scientific communications in order to further their scientific writing career.

## Medical Information Specialist

**From medcommunications.com:** Medical information specialists serve as product specialists that interface with clients (both the medical community and the public) to provide concise, accurate, and non-promotional data in a timely manner. They ensure clients have essential information that is clearly understandable for using the company's products safely and effectively. As a representative of the company, an MIS addresses the needs of clients while following company procedures. It is not uncommon for the MIS to use multiple channels, including email, letters, or even video chat, to communicate. However, a typical day consists of answering clients' drug information questions verbally through live telephone conversations. This requires phone etiquette, such as tactful oral communication skills and active listening, in order to be successful. In addition to responding to and documenting calls in compliance with regulatory and legal demands, the MIS also identifies and captures adverse event information and product quality complaints. Depending on the life cycle of the product, an MIS may assist with clinical trial recruitment and patient assistance programs. Medical information specialists also routinely attend medical congresses and scientific meetings

## Regulatory Affairs Officer

**From Prospects.ac.uk:** As a regulatory affairs officer, you'll ensure the appropriate licensing, marketing and legal compliance of a range of pharmaceutical and medical products in order to control their safety and efficacy. Products include: pharmaceuticals, veterinary medicines, complementary medicines, agrochemicals, pesticides, therapeutic devices and cosmetics.

You're the crucial link between your company, its products and regulatory authorities, and will combine your knowledge of scientific, legal and business issues to ensure products, which are developed, manufactured or distributed by a range of companies, meet the required legislation. It can take up to 15 years to develop and launch a new pharmaceutical product and you'll be involved throughout the process, right from the start. This is a desk-based role, involving the close study of scientific and legal documents. You'll also work closely with scientific and medical colleagues, often on a project-team basis.

## **Medical Writer**

**Article from: [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3149406/](https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3149406/):** Medical writing involves writing scientific documents of different types which include regulatory and research-related documents, disease or drug-related educational and promotional literature, publication articles like journal manuscripts and abstracts, content for healthcare websites, health-related magazines or news articles. The scientific information in these documents needs to be presented to suit the level of understanding of the target audience, namely, patients or general public, physicians or the regulators. They also need to be familiar with searching medical literature, understanding and presenting research data, the document review process, and editing and publishing requirements.

## **Communications Officer**

**Example Advert: 'Children with Cancer UK':** The Communications Officer plays a key role in the central Communications team at Children with Cancer UK. The role is responsible for planning and delivering communications campaigns across a range of audiences to raise awareness of Children with Cancer UK's lifesaving research programmes, welfare projects and highlight the need for support. The Communications Officer will write, edit, co-ordinate and publish content across various channels, including media, website, social media, and print and online marketing materials. Candidates should be Educated to degree level or equivalent, have experience of producing written copy for various formats and have excellent digital skills and an awareness of the platforms and channels used to deliver communications campaigns.

## **Editorial Assistant**

**Example Advert: Elsevier (publisher of scientific journals):** 'The person in this full-time post will report to the Lancet Operations Manager and will be responsible for supporting the administrative processes of the Lancet family of journals. Special responsibilities can include picture research, soliciting of clinical trials, managing author's proposals and commissioning for review content, and the creation and production of complex tracking reports which are essential for an efficient flow of manuscripts and content planning. The person will need to be both independent and able to work closely with others. The person will need to be imaginative and enjoy solving problems, and will be able to balance a busy workload with the need to meet short deadlines. Good communication skills are essential'

# Analysing & Interpreting Data & Information

## Equity Research Associate – Life Sciences

**Example Advert: A financial services & investment company:** Seeking an individual with exceptional quantitative and analytical skills and a passion for the securities industry. Coverage will include diligence on oncology, rare-disease and technology platform companies and their therapeutic assets Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: Conduct regular scientific and market due diligence on covered companies including conducting channel checks on assigned companies, Build, update and maintain financial models, Assist with timely preparation of research reports, Conduct surveys with key medical opinion leaders, Assist with timely publication of research notes and reports, Provide general support to the equity research team, Interpret scientific publications and medical conference presentations, Interact with corporate management and our internal sales force

## Public Health Knowledge & Intelligence Professional

**From [healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://healthcareers.nhs.uk):** Support all three 'domains' of public health (health protection, health improvement and healthcare public health). If you're working within health protection you may be involved in work on infectious diseases requiring a rapid response (for example, providing information to inform the advice given to the public about pandemic flu or norovirus). If you're working in health improvement or healthcare public health, you may be more involved in the longer-term work of interpreting data on chronic diseases (such as heart disease or lung cancer).

## Clinical Bioinformatics – Genomics

**From [healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://healthcareers.nhs.uk):** You'll apply bioinformatics resources, such as databases and online tools, to problems in genetics and genomics, using skills in programming and data analysis. You'll provide support to ensure data received and generated by the laboratory is used in an efficient, standardised, secure and accurate manner using leading edge technologies and adhering to information governance standards. You will be involved in service development which may include designing databases, generating programs to automate analysis, or creating next generation sequencing pipelines. You'll work as part of a multidisciplinary team that includes clinical scientists, doctors specialising in genetics, specialist nurses, genetic counsellors, IT teams and external providers of software or databases.

## Patent Attorney

**From [ipcareers.co.uk](http://ipcareers.co.uk):** A patent attorney assists their client, or their employer, in obtaining a patent. This includes drafting the description of the invention and the claims, as well as communicating with the patent office to make the case for why a patent should be granted. Drafting the description and the claims requires a technical background in order to properly understand the invention and clearly explain it to others. Convincing the patent office that a patent should be granted requires good communication skills and the ability to analyse technical documents to spot what differentiates the new invention from what has already been done.

## Market Researcher

**From [Prospects.ac.uk](http://Prospects.ac.uk):** As a market researcher, you'll collect and analyse data and information to present to your clients. The information you provide helps them to make

informed political, social and economic decisions. You may be employed directly by a company (known as client-side), where you'll collect information on customer opinions, investment and marketing trends. The majority of market researchers, however, are employed by marketing agencies that range in size, where work is carried out on numerous projects for different companies and industries. You'll specialise in either quantitative or qualitative research. Quantitative research involves working with statistics and percentages and can deliver quick results. Qualitative research involves analysing opinions and can provide the reasons behind certain percentages.

## **Biostatistician**

**Advert from: *Costello Medical (healthcare industry consultancy)*:** The Biostatistician will be responsible for providing statistical and analytical expertise across Costello Medical, devising statistical analysis plans and performing data analysis within Excel, SAS, R and WinBUGS. The Biostatistician will also be responsible for communicating the methodologies used and the results in both written and oral formats to drug and device manufacturers, doctors and reimbursement agencies such as NICE in the UK. The statistical analysis will vary across patient-level clinical trial data, observational study data, real-world data and published aggregate data, and will involve a range of techniques. The Biostatistician will typically be working on several projects at one time and the results of their analysis could feed into publications, value materials, health economic models or health technology assessment submissions (eg. submissions to NICE).

# Applying Technical Skills & Methods

## Clinical Trials Assistant

**Example Advert: Richmond Pharmacology (A Contract Research Organisation):** The right candidates will be expected to follow the RPL system of intensive training and examination to ensure that they reach the expected high standards of performance necessary for the conduct of their duties. This primarily includes liaising with study volunteers and collaborators to facilitate the efficient running of a study, performing clinical tasks (such as ECG, vital signs and blood sampling) and maintaining records when a trial is in progress. In addition candidates will be involved in data QC (Quality Control), query generation and resolution of study Case Report Forms (CRFs). This post would ideally suit someone with a life sciences degree or a Nurse or Pharmacist (not necessarily registered in the UK) who is interested in a career in Clinical Research.

## Drug Discovery Scientist

**From ABPI Careers (Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry):** Research and Development (R&D) covers the initial search for a molecule to treat the disease, through to having a product ready to market. Most of this work is carried out by scientists, mainly biologists and chemists, with a variety of specialist qualifications in areas including;

- Imaging - techniques include: Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), Positron emission tomography (PET) Single photon emission tomography (SPECT) Ultrasound, Optical imaging.
- Biotherapeutics - One of the fastest growing areas is the discovery and development of proteins and antibodies to treat disease.
- Drug Metabolism & Pharmacokinetics (DPMK) - early stage research determines the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic characteristics of compounds from target identification, through lead identification and finally selection of the candidate drug.
- Pharmacology - Pharmacologists investigate how potential medicines interact with biological systems using cells, animal tissues and whole animals to predict what effects a potential medicine might have in humans.
- Toxicology - The toxicity assessment for each potential medicine is carried out in single cells or cell cultures in vitro and in whole animals in vivo.

## Research Technician

**Example advert from jobs.ac.uk:** A research group in a UCL department: The successful candidate will join a dynamic group of basic and clinical scientists all working on integrated aspects of the immunopathogenesis of HBV infection, with a number of leading national and international collaborators. The successful candidate will have a BSc or equivalent in Biochemistry/Immunology/Biomedical Sciences or related subject. Competency in sterile cell culture and basic molecular biology skills are essential. Experience of research in both human and mouse cellular immunology and competency in multiparameter flow cytometry and immunohistochemistry / immunofluorescence is desirable. (note, funding initially for 6 months)

## Industry Collaborative PhD Studentships

**From BBSRC website:** CASE studentships (formerly known as 'Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering') are collaborative training grants that provide students with a first-

rate challenging research training experience, allowing top quality bioscience graduates to undertake research, leading to a PhD, within the context of a mutually beneficial research collaboration between academic and partner organisations. In addition to experience of an industrial research environment, the student should receive business-related training, for example, in project-management, business strategy, and/or finance.

## **Four Year Doctoral Training Programme**

**Example from: Four Year PhD Studentships in Science, Wellcome Trust:** This scheme offers the most promising students in-depth postgraduate training at 32 programmes throughout the UK. A Four-year PhD Studentship in Science includes support for: PhD registration fees at the UK/EU student rate, college fees (where required) a studentship stipend (living costs). In the first year you'll broaden your knowledge of the chosen subject area through taught courses and laboratory rotations. At the end of the first year, you'll make an informed choice about your three-year PhD research project. The studentship may be held on a part-time basis. Training is available in a range of important biomedical and public health research areas: developmental & stem cell biology, genomics & population health, immunology & infectious disease, molecular & cell biology, neuroscience, physiological sciences, computational quantitative & Structural biology.

## **Healthcare (Clinical) Scientist – Life Sciences**

**From [healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://healthcareers.nhs.uk):** Whether they are helping couples with IVF or supporting doctors and other healthcare professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, they are a crucial part of the team. Roles in the life sciences can be divided into three areas: Pathology - investigating the causes of illness and how it progresses; carrying out tests on tissue, blood and other samples from patients. Pathology plays a crucial role in helping doctors choose the best type of treatment for patients, and monitoring its effectiveness, Genetics - understanding the genetic components of illnesses. Reproductive science - a rapidly developing field, creating life and providing other solutions to infertility (You can apply for a place on the graduate-entry NHS Scientist Training Programme with a 1st or 2.1 either in an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated master's degree in a relevant pure or applied science subject)

## **Forensic Scientist**

**Example Advert: ID Laboratory Scientist, Cellmark Forensic Services:** Responsibilities include: Receive and check samples and documentation. Working to Good Laboratory Practice process oral, hair and blood samples, using various molecular biology techniques to produce genotypes following standard operating procedures. Operate and maintain automated equipment. Update sample tracking systems and process documentation to allow accurate monitoring and rapid progression of casework. Interface with other team members and other teams. Minimum 'A' Level, preferably BSC or HND in a Molecular Biology or Applied Biology subject, Basic knowledge of Molecular Biology Methods, Previous laboratory experience, DNA/PCR experience preferred.

# Helping Individuals or Groups

## Dietician

**From: BDA.uk.com (The Association of UK Dietitians):** Registered Dietitians (RDs) are the only qualified health professionals that assess, diagnose and treat dietary and nutritional problems at an individual and wider public health level. They work with both healthy and sick people. Uniquely, dietitians use the most up-to-date public health and scientific research on food, health and disease which they translate into practical guidance to enable people to make appropriate lifestyle and food choices. They work in the NHS, private practice, industry, education, research, sport, media, public relations, publishing, government and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). Dietitians advise and influence food and health policy across the spectrum from government, to local communities and individuals. *(To be accepted on to a two-year postgraduate course (either a Postgraduate Diploma or a Masters in dietetics) you must have a life sciences degree, often a 2:1 or above, that contains an adequate level of human physiology and biochemistry)*

## Nutritionist

**From: bda.uk.com/publications/dietitian\_nutritionist.pdf:** Nutritionists work in all non-clinical settings such as in Government, food industry, research, teaching, sports and exercise industries, international work in developing countries, media and communications, animal nutrition and NGOs. There are some nutritionists employed within the NHS working alongside Registered Dietitians. Nutritionists often work freelance as consultants. They cannot work with acutely ill hospitalised patients or those living in the community requiring therapeutic interventions without supervision from a dietitian. Many employers of nutritionists in all sectors will only consider recruiting Registered Nutritionists. Courses that have applied and met strict standards of professional education in nutrition are accredited by the Association for Nutrition (AfN) and graduates from these courses have direct entry onto the voluntary register.

## Genomic / Genetic Counsellor

**From healthcareers.nhs.uk:** As a genetic counsellor, you'll be part of a multidisciplinary team alongside clinical geneticists and clinical scientists, helping to diagnose, manage, predict and screen for genetic disease. You'll do this through taking and analysing family history information, assessing the risks of inheriting or passing on a medical condition, ordering and interpreting genetic and genomic test results and explaining these to the individual patient and their relatives. Genetic counsellors also use techniques from counselling to help patients adjust to having a genetic condition and to help them make difficult decisions associated with this. Increasingly, genetic counsellors are using their expertise to support genomic testing in specialist multidisciplinary teams such as in cancer teams, neurology, ophthalmology, cardiology and reproductive medicine.

## Speech and Language Therapist

**From healthcareers.nhs.uk:** Speech and language therapists provide life-changing treatment, support and care for children and adults who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing. You'll help people who, for physical or psychological reasons, have problems speaking and communicating. Patients range from children whose speech is slow to develop, to older people whose ability to speak has been impaired by illness or injury. It also includes treatment for those who have difficulty with

eating or swallowing. Some examples of things you might work on include: helping adults and children with learning difficulties communicate with others, helping people overcome their stammering, helping adults with speech difficulties as a result of head, neck or throat cancer. *(If you already hold a relevant first degree, you can apply for an accelerated postgraduate programme in speech and language therapy. These courses usually last two years)*

### **Physician's Associate**

**From Prospects.ac.uk:** Working as a physician associate, you'll be a trained health professional, providing crucial support to doctors and regularly dealing with patients. You'll hold a variety of responsibilities and will typically work in general practitioner (GP) surgeries or hospitals as part of a medical team. Physician associates work under the direct supervision of a doctor and carry out many similar tasks; having direct contact with patients, taking medical histories, carrying out physical examinations and making home visits, making diagnoses, analysing test results and delivering treatment. Unlike a medical doctor, you cannot prescribe. *(To train for this role, you'll need either a life science-related degree and/or to be a registered healthcare professional. Training is full time, intensive and usually takes two years, consisting of theory and practice in equal measure)*

### **Healthcare (Clinical) Scientist – Physiological Sciences**

**From healthcareers.nhs.uk:** Healthcare science staff who work in the physiological sciences use specialist equipment, advanced technologies and a range of different procedures to evaluate the functioning of different body systems, to diagnose abnormalities, and to direct and in some case, provide therapeutic intervention and long-term management and care. The work involves direct interaction with patients in a range of areas. Most healthcare science staff in physiological sciences work in hospital clinics and departments, or as part of a surgical team. Some work in the community, visiting patients in their homes or in schools. Specialisms include: audiology, cardiac sciences, clinical perfusion, critical care science, gastrointestinal physiology, neurophysiology, ophthalmic and vision science, respiratory physiology and sleep sciences, urodynamics science, vascular science. *(You can apply for a place on the graduate-entry NHS Scientist Training Programme with a 1st or 2.1 either in an undergraduate honours degree or an integrated master's degree in a relevant pure or applied science subject)*

### **Medical Doctor**

**From healthcareers.nhs.uk:** The learning path for medicine is much longer than only four to seven years of medical school. It involves further training during which you will have the opportunity to decide whether you will become a GP or a doctor in one of the other specialties. If you're on the accelerated graduate degree programme, your studies will be four years' long (plus one year if you study for the intercalated degree). After medical school you'll apply to complete a two year foundation programme. This is a general medical training programme, where you'll combine work experience with training. During the foundation years you will move around different medical specialties. One third of the way through the second year you will be asked to make a choice about which specialty training you would like to embark on in later years.

### **Mental Health Social Worker**

**From Thinkahead.org:** Mental health social workers empower individuals with mental illness—and their families, carers, and communities—to lead fulfilling, independent lives.

Through talking therapy, support, and advocacy, they enable people to manage the social factors in their lives—like relationships, housing, and employment—that allow them to get well and stay well. The Think Ahead programme qualifies you for any social worker role, including work in specialist mental health settings like forensic services and child and adolescent mental health services, but the main focus is on experience in adult community mental health services. Teams within these services are multi-disciplinary, and can include social workers, nurses, support workers, occupational therapists, psychologists, and psychiatrists.

# Influencing Behaviours & Opinions of Others

## Government Affairs Manager

**Example Advert: GSK Future Leaders programme ‘Communications & Government Affairs’:** Communications and government affairs (CGA) function is the voice of GSK. It protects and enhances our reputation both inside and outside the company, and ensures that our story is told correctly and consistently. What you will do; You’ll develop your skills and knowledge of internal and external communications and government affairs. You will be involved in GSK’s digital activity, whether on internal channels or the company’s social media platforms. There will be every opportunity for you to develop transferable skills such as leading cross-functional teams, crafting key messages, influencing and presentation. You will be involved in managing projects and prioritising a variety of tasks effectively. You’ll be analysing and interpreting information which will help you understand the trends and insights in the healthcare industry. You’ll support GSK’s activity at key events, as appropriate.

## Policy & Research Officer

**Example Advert: The College of Optometrists:** This role is an excellent opportunity for someone who would like to apply their organisational, writing and administrative skills to supporting the College’s guidance, research and policy teams, assisting them to plan and track projects and liaise with the professionals and patients in relation to these areas of work. Specific tasks include: managing the updating of clinical guidance, including liaising with the authors and reviewers, liaising with patient and professional groups to obtain their views on College work, keeping track of policies and guidance and when these need updating, co-ordinating research scholarships, awards and prizes, making meeting arrangements and taking minutes, keeping track of expenditure and other administrative processes.

## Management Consultant

**Example Advert: Life Sciences Graduate – PA Consulting Group:** Working with diverse organisations across the pharmaceuticals, healthcare, medical devices, diagnostic and biotechnology industries, our Life Sciences specialists offer new insights and unconstrained thinking to create real improvements with lasting impact. Imagine helping to launch a new treatment for schizophrenia in the UK, or developing a national diabetes strategy in the Middle East. Or possibly working with a major pharmaceutical company on the latest global regulations. These are all assignments recently undertaken by Life Sciences Graduate at PA. We’re a global practice and we look for graduates who share our global ambitions. Joining us as a Life Sciences Graduate, you’ll be integral to the business as you’ll help our team deliver key assignments to our clients. These range from advising on operational process excellence and compliance to our ‘beyond the pill’ services. Working as part of small, highly innovative, multi-disciplinary teams, you’ll be expected to take on significant responsibility and to work on site with clients from an early stage.

## NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme

**From [nhsgraduates.co.uk](https://nhsgraduates.co.uk):** Joining the NHS Graduate Management Training Scheme gives you every opportunity to have a far-reaching and positive impact on the health of the nation - even while you’re training to become a leader of the future. When you join one of our six Schemes, you’ll gain an in-depth insight into the workings of a much-loved, vitally important organisation - and see how every area works together to put patients at the heart of everything we do. You’ll learn from a wide variety of NHS professionals - both clinical and non-clinical –

and from patients and their families too. Your work will change processes, inform big decisions, make vital savings and improve lives. And, as well as growing your understanding, experience and knowledge, you'll build and grow a professional and social network – gaining both skills and friends for life. In addition to developing your leadership skills, we also provide you with a formal qualification in your chosen specialism. Our 2017 intake studied the following qualifications: Finance, general management, health analysis, health informatics, human resources, policy & strategy.

### **Civil Service Fast Stream – Science & Engineering**

**From [Faststream.gov.uk](http://Faststream.gov.uk):** Society faces many challenges where science can provide solutions. You'll be responsible for making sure that the best science and engineering advice is applied to government policy and decision-making. You'll apply your specialist skills and knowledge to the development and application of policies, acting as an expert customer, developing an evidence base and undertaking systematic analysis. Science and Engineering Fast Streamers work on issues as diverse as climate change, health science, defence and security, energy technology, and transport innovation. By the time you complete the scheme, you'll be as comfortable in a policy or operational delivery role as you are in a technical environment. This will give you a wide choice of career options within the Civil Service, and the flexibility to switch between different types of roles. You'll receive the same core training as Generalist fast streamers. This includes: A mixture of face-to-face training courses and e-learning packages and development opportunities specifically for the Science and Engineering Fast Stream. These aim to provide additional technical skills and broaden your understanding of science and engineering in the Civil Service.

### **Health Promotion Specialist**

**From [Prospects.ac.uk](http://Prospects.ac.uk):** Your role as a health promotion specialist is to help people to improve their health and increase their control over it. You could also be known as a health education specialist or health improvement practitioner. Working in a range of settings, you'll give face-to-face advice to individuals, set up schemes promoting a healthy lifestyle, run campaigns and implement government initiatives relating to public health. You'll also produce strategic policies for health promotion. It's possible to cover a number of health-related issues, or to specialise in one area such as: drug misuse, the dangers of smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, healthy eating, sexual health. Your work could also be focused on a specific section of the community, such as elderly or disabled people or an ethnic minority group.

### **Environmental Education Officer**

**From [Prospects.ac.uk](http://Prospects.ac.uk):** Environmental education officers are involved in making people aware of environmental issues, promoting conservation and sustainability, and enhancing the public's enjoyment of the environment through teaching and interpreting the natural world. The range of activities you will carry out varies from job to job. Some officers work mainly within schools, giving talks and taking part in and developing projects. You can also deliver presentations or host groups at relevant sites, such as nature reserves. Others work with a range of age groups, for example leading guided nature walks for visitors or organising events and awareness campaigns. Training volunteers and community groups involved in environmental work such as conservation projects is also a common part of the job. At a more senior level, you might be involved in advising on and drafting environmental education policies and strategies for your organisation or the wider community.