**Medical Careers**

Every year the Royal Berkshire Hospital runs the ‘Introduction to Medicine’ careers day aimed at Year 12 students who are aspiring medics. The 2019 event will take place on Tuesday 16 April. Students interested in applying for this very competitive opportunity can obtain an application form, selection criteria and detailed information from the Careers Office. This is an excellent opportunity and successful applicants who take part in the day are normally offered a week of work experience during the year. I would strongly encourage any student considering a medical career to apply for this opportunity as soon as possible.

**Career in Aerospace or Engineering**

 During the Farnborough Air Show 2016, the Aerospace Growth Partnership (AGP) announced the creation of a bursary fund to honour the late Jon Dennison.  Jon, from Newport, had a distinguished career in aerospace and engineering, spanning government and industry and his last job was at GKN - where he became Director of Government and External Affairs.  He was passionate about giving young people opportunities to realise their potential.

 The Jon Dennison bursary aims to encourage the next generation of aerospace engineers by offering students a limited amount of fully funded places on EDT Headstart courses, where family circumstances would prevent participation.  It also offers some financial support for travelling if needed.

 By attending a Headstart course it will increase opportunities and raise aspirations.  Headstart is a UK-wide programme, provided by EDT, which provides an opportunity for 16 to 17 year olds to spend up to a week at a UK university prior to making their UCAS application.  The young people can make important degree and university choices based on real experience because they would have:

 ·        participated in practical problem solving activities

·        attended lectures and seminars

·        visited local companies

·        experienced life as an undergraduate and

·        met academics, post graduates and young professionals.

There are a number of Headstart courses with strong aerospace elements at UK universities:

 ·        [Coventry University - Aerospace Engineering](http://www.etrust.org.uk/aerospace-engineering-coventry%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

·        [University of Liverpool - Aerospace Engineering](http://www.etrust.org.uk/aerospace-engineering-liverpool)

·        [University of Salford – Insight into Engineering (girls’ only)](http://www.etrust.org.uk/girls-only-insight-engineering)

·        [University of Sheffield - Broad Based Engineering](http://www.etrust.org.uk/cutting-edge-engineering)

·        [Queen's University, Belfast - Broad Based Engineering](http://www.etrust.org.uk/broad-based-engineering-northern-ireland)

·        [University of Glasgow - Broad Based Engineering](http://www.etrust.org.uk/broad-based-engineering-glasgow)

 Interested students please email me your name and tutor group and then apply directly on: www.headstartteam@etrust.org.uk

**The Government Service Economics Degree Apprenticeship**

This is a unique opportunity to work on important issues our country faces, whilst studying an economics degree.

* “The Government Economic Service Degree Apprenticeship Programme (GES-DAP) is an opportunity to work in a central government department or agency on some of the most important social, environmental and economic issues our country faces – while studying for a degree in economics with the University of Kent.
* Shape a career that fits you because this programme is diverse which means you can figure out what you like, and what you don’t like. Economics is such as broad subject that can be applied across so many sectors. Your degree and practical experience will help you understand all of the opportunities open to economists.
* It’s also an opportunity to work in an inclusive and social environment. We want everyone in the Government Economic Service (GES) to feel comfortable to come to work as themselves. We have a culture that supports all, no matter their background or ambitions. You will have the opportunity to be part of a fun community, with many social events and plenty of chances to make friends with both students and other colleagues”.

They require applicants to have GCSE Maths at grade B (6) or above and 96 UCAS points (equivalent to CCC at A Level. Interested students have until 13 January 2019 to register their interest at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-government-economic-service-degree-level-apprenticeship>

**Deloitte**

As an alternative career path to university Deloitte are offering their, Bright Start higher level Apprenticeships. This enables students to earn while they learn, they offer very competitive salary and benefits. These apprenticeships are available in the following areas:

* Audit & Assurance
* Business & Financial Advisory
* Human Capital
* Strategy & Operations
* Tax Consulting
* Technology

To find out more please refer to; [www.deloitte.co.uk/careers](http://www.deloitte.co.uk/careers)

**Ernst & Young**

Ernst & Young is a local but multinational business services firm. They are currently recruiting school leavers for two separate Programmes

1. Business Apprenticeship Program – These are available in one of four areas:

Assurance, IT Risk & assurance, Tax or transactions

1. Degree Apprenticeship Program – Theses are available in:

Digital & Technology or Business Leadership & Management

For full details please refer to:

<https://ukcareers.ey.com/students/programmes/apprenticeships>

**PwC**

* **Paid work experience**

Again this year PwC are offering year 12 students the opportunity to take part in their two summer paid work experience programs - Business Insight Week and Digital Insight Week. This year they are offering over 400 work experience places in 2019 across the UK. For details please refer to: [www.pwc.co.uk/careers](http://www.pwc.co.uk/careers)

* **Flying Start Degree Partnership Programmes**

“Weighing up post A-level options can be a confusing time, with so many choices to make and factors to consider. Much is made of the debate as to whether to start work straight away or go to Uni, but what if you could do both at the same time? Here’s some facts you might not know about employer partnership degrees…

* *You can still choose your Uni* - the Flying Start Degree programmes are available at Newcastle, Nottingham, Reading, Leeds, Birmingham, Edinburgh, St Andrews and Queen's University Belfast, so you can choose the Uni and geographical area that suits you best.
* *Two for the price of one* - many partnership degrees offer a professional qualification, alongside your academic degree qualification. That means you start work ahead of other graduates with an industry qualification under your belt alongside a degree.
* *Student discount* - most employer degrees offer financial incentives, making the burden of going to Uni that little bit lighter. Whether it’s discounted fees and paid placements, like our Accountancy Flying Start programmes\*, or a fully funded programme where you’re paid a monthly salary from day-one for the duration of the programme, as well as 25 days holiday, life insurance and other core benefits, and pay no tuition fees, like our Flying Start Technology Degree Apprenticeship, they’re worth looking into.

\*Discounted fees not applicable at Reading.”

**PwC offer Flying Start Degree Programmes in Accounting, Business and Technology. To find out more about our programmes, simply visit their website and /or apply through UCAS.**

[www.pwc.co.uk/careers](http://www.pwc.co.uk/careers)

**Careers Broadcasts**

Please take a look at the link below to see broadcasts about various careers which are due to happen this month.

<https://learnliveuk.com/live-broadcasts/>

**RPC – Para Legal Apprentice**

RPC based in Bristol are recruiting four paralegal apprentices to join their Bristol Office. Each year, they recruit four paralegal apprentices to join their office. Over the course of the two-year programme (Level 3 accredited by CILEx), apprentices draw upon their own ambitious and enthusiastic personality to develop skills, learn new ones and grow legal knowledge. Apprentices will get involved in a range of tasks in support of their lawyers, and have the opportunity on qualification to begin the solicitor apprenticeship programme. Motre details can be found at: [www.rpc.co.uk/strikinglyreal](https://email.targetcareers.co.uk/rsps/m/wJpWvlKKqK6mhYnr3ggC-oi-EB4wKm-gw7dsCfg2tZA).

***Finally, the careers team would like to wish you all a very happy xmas and peaceful new year!***

Kind regards

Eileen Wooller

Careers Leader, ewooller@littleheath.org.uk

**Job Spotlight**

**Gemmologist**

[Abdi Saeed](https://ccskills.org.uk/network/profile/3)  28 November 2012

Gemmology is the study of gemstones, from precious stones such as diamonds, rubies, sapphires and emeralds to semi-precious stones such as amethyst and topaz.

Your work as gemmologist can include identifying and grading different gems and evaluating various characteristics. Photo: Holts Academy

**What does a gemmologist do?**

Gemmologists, or gemologists, are experts on gems, or precious stones. Gems are pieces of mineral or rock which are then cut and polished and used for a variety of decorative purposes, including jewellery.  Gemmology also includes synthetic and manufactured stones.

**Your work as gemmologist can include**:

1. Identifying and grading different gems and evaluating various characteristics, such as:
* quality
* colour
* clarity
* rarity
* the way in which they have been cut
* their value
1. Understanding the different characteristics of gems, including:
* chemical composition
* crystal system
* hardness and durability
* lustre
* country of origin
* heat treatments to enhance durability and colour
1. Buying and selling gemstones
2. Providing valuation and appraisal services, often for insurance purposes.

**What is the job like?**

Your work will involve using different types of equipment, including [spectroscopes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spectrometer), microscopes, lenses and [refractometers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refractometer) which enable you to study the characteristics of gems.

Gemmologists may be employed by retail jewellery firms as buyers. An in-depth knowledge of gemstones is also very beneficial for [retail staff](https://ccskills.org.uk/careers/advice/article/%7Bpage_3610%7Djob-profiles/details/retail-assistant). They can then advise customers effectively about different stones such as birthstones, as well as fairtrade issues around how the gems were produced. Some gemmologists are employed in laboratories, which provide various services, including assessing gems (perhaps to see if they are genuine) restoration and repair treatments. Synthetic gemstones are also created in laboratories.

Once fully trained as a gemmologist, you could also work in a variety of different settings, including with diamond-mining companies, gem dealers, wholesale gem buyers, valuers, auction houses, or in manufacturing and retail. At a senior level, you might travel around the world – to mines, markets and trading centres.

**How do I become a gemmologist?**

It's important to be interested in minerals, crystals, stones and gems, and to enjoy studying science subjects, such as physics, chemistry and geology.

You also need to be:

* practical and good with your hands
* very patient and methodical
* someone with a close eye for detail
* someone with good vision (corrected by glasses if necessary).

**What training and qualifications do I need?**

If you want to progress within gemmology, you will need to get the relevant qualifications.

**Gem A courses**

The [Gemmological Association of Great Britain (Gem A)](http://www.gem-a.com/) offers a range of private courses in gemmology at different levels. Most of the courses are open distance learning with practical classes in London, although evening courses (also in London) are available.

**Courses include:**

* [Gemmology Foundation Course](http://www.gem-a.com/education/gemmology-foundation.aspx), leading to the Foundation Certificate. This introductory course takes either four or eight months. It will introduce you to the many different types of gems, their origins, properties and distinguishing factors, their commercial uses, and the use of different pieces of gemmological equipment.
* [Gemmology Diploma Course](http://www.gem-a.com/education/gemmology-diploma.aspx), leading to the Diploma Certificate. You can study this course either via open distance learning or for two evenings a week in London. The course lasts for eight months, and is an in-depth study of gemmology and the principles of gem testing. Upon completion of this course you are eligible for Fellowship of the Gemmological Association (FGA) status.

Gem A also offer a range of other courses including a [Diamond Diploma](http://www.gem-a.com/education/diamond-diploma.aspx) course, short courses and workshops.

**Other courses**

Birmingham City University’s School of Jewellery offers a [two year full-time HND in Gemmology](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/biad/jewellery/courses/gemmology-hnd). This very practical course includes:

* how to tests gems in the laboratory and identify them
* jewellery design and production
* the Gem A Gemmology Diploma and Diamond Grading Diploma.

The entry requirements for this course are 120 UCAS tariff points, a BTEC National Diploma at Level 3 in Foundation Studies in Art and Design, or equivalent qualifications.

**What can I earn?**

Some gemmologists are self-employed, and their earnings can vary widely. When starting out, you might be earning the minimum wage to start with, which is £6.19 per hour for those aged over 21, and £4.98 per hour for those aged 18-20. With more experience in gemmology, salaries can rise to between £20,000 and £30,000 per year. A stone buyer working for a wholesaler may earn up to £35,000 per year. Salaries of up to £40,000 are possible for management roles within gemmology.

[Julie Alchin](https://ccskills.org.uk/network/profile/16462)  10 May 2012

Information officers make sure that high quality, accurate information can easily be found by their colleagues, customers and members of the public.

Every organisation needs to gather, store, analyse and communicate information.

What do information officers do?

Organisations need to make sure information is used effectively – accurate and timely information is the basis of good decision-making. Every organisation needs to gather, store, analyse and communicate information.

The work of an information officer involves managing information for an organisation, such as a government department or commercial company.

They develop effective systems to gather, organise and distribute information. The information may be in electronic or paper-based formats.

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