

# CAREERS MATTERS

MAY 2020



## **CAREERS**

### **CONSTRUCTION**

This is much overlooked career choice but a sector that has many varied opportunities for those keen on practical work and who have skills in critical analysis, logical reasoning, imagination, creative ability, organisation, effective communication skills amongst others. As well as the popular choice of architect, other professional roles include quantity surveyor, town planner, architectural technologist, mechanical estimator, land buyer, civil/structural engineer, building control officer, site/construction manager, planning and development manager, site inspector, electrical design estimator, facilities administrator, project manager, housing officer, policy planning consultant, heritage officer, estate agency roles and many more at various levels.

To find out more about any of the above, check out the following website link:

<https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/careers-in-construction-your-complete-guide-1277043>

Many of the above careers can also be further explored via [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

For those keen on architecture (and I know there are many in school from careers interviews), the main website for careers research is [www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com) which is the website for RIBA – Royal Institute of British Architects. For those who may want to check out a related profession – that of Architectural Technologist (which does NOT involved 7 years training!), see [www.ciat.org.uk](http://www.ciat.org.uk) (The Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists)

### **LAW**

Do you listen to podcasts? 12% of adults in the UK listen to podcasts every week – these can be a useful way of expanding your knowledge and interest in a subject/s that appeal to you and can be of significant value when considering career choices as well as when you apply for apprenticeships or higher education. You will be able to offer that essential background and up to

date knowledge, with informed ideas and opinions which prospective employers and University Admissions Tutors are looking for, both in application forms and interviews.

[www.lawcareers.net](http://www.lawcareers.net) have included 15 of the most useful law podcasts on their website – include: Law Pod UK, BBC Radio 4 Beyond Today and Best of Today, Talking Law, UK Law Weekly, BBC Law in Action and First 100 Years Podcast

Check these out and the website itself – this site is an excellent source of information and advice on the various routes into the profession including legal apprenticeships and degrees as well as it covers employers, work experience, news and developments, reading resources, events and more

## ***MEDICINE***

- 1) Professor Olwyn Westwood of Brunel Medical School, Brunel University London has provided some top tips for preparing for a Skype MMI and I will summarise them here:

“Many medical schools are now using the Multi Mini Interview (MMI) format – as the name suggests, it is designed so that you have a number of short interviews, using a range of different interviewers so that we get to know you. What you may not know is that some medical schools have been pioneering MMIs delivered over Skype – which is topical and has the benefit of interviewing whilst being mindful of the need for social distancing.

At Brunel Medical School we invite candidates to our London campus for their MMI, but also provide the opportunity to interview candidates over Skype. You should always aim to visit a campus in person, although we appreciate that travelling all the way to the UK for an interview may be inconvenient, especially during term time. Remember – check what the MMI format is for each of your medical school options so that you can prepare accordingly.

Skype MMIs are very similar to face-to-face MMIs in terms of content, so you can expect the familiar questions to appear. You can also expect to have the same number of question stations. “But how will I move around each station on my laptop?” I hear you cry. So if you can imagine, the format is reversed over Skype. It is now the interviewers (university staff) who move around each station, not you the candidate.

An interviewer will ask you a question and you will answer in the allocated timeframe (typically five minutes). A bell will ring and then a new interviewer will ask you another question on a different topic. And so forth until all questions have been answered. You will need to be skilful regarding the delivery of a Skype MMI as a slightly different

**approach is needed. I recommend that you follow these guidelines and do some of your own research in order to be fully prepared.**

**1. Practice being interviewed online**

**Practice with a friend, record it, and then be honest with yourself and analyze how you performed, and ask your friend to provide feedback on how you came across on video. You will discover it is quite different to speaking to someone face-to-face!**

**2. Do your research**

**Identify the key areas that you think might come up, then practice by video-recording yourself answering questions around some of these core themes: Communication skills, empathy and compassion, ethical reasoning, professionalism, data interpretation and gathering, problem solving, personal qualities and motivation, to study medicine, work experience, understanding of what it means to have a career in medicine, current affairs in the media**

**3. Be yourself**

**We are looking for more than just someone you can recite information they have rehearsed. We want to hear from you and understand why you want a career in medicine**

**4. No notes**

**It is tempting to have a set of notes close by to refer to off camera. I would avoid doing this because it quickly becomes obvious to the interviewer that you are reading from a paper**

**5. Dress code**

**Remember this is an interview and you are on camera, therefore wear exactly what you would to a conventional interview – even down to your shoes!**

**2) Section 1 of The BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test), currently used by 7 medical schools in the UK, has had some alterations, effective from this year onwards – they have been widely viewed as positive for students:**

**- the number of multiple choice questions has been reduced from 35 to 32 – the time allowed is still 1 hour so will get slightly longer per question!**

**- there are now 5 answer options (1 correct with 4 distractors) whereas previously, combination questions had been included**

**- Section 1 focusses on testing “your ability to solve problems and think critically” and though these skills have always been assessed, what has been added in is that “Section 1 no longer contains data analysis and inference questions in which a longer text was followed by a set of related questions” – previously, most questions were separate from each other whereas now the long passage and 4 associated questions testing data analysis and inference will no longer be tested**

For more information and advice on the BMAT, see  
[www.admissionstesting.org](http://www.admissionstesting.org)

## ***POLICE SERVICE***

### **Useful statistics**

The workforce has increased from 198,388 in 2017 to 200,448 in 2018, within 43 territorial police forces in England and Wales – includes special constables and police support volunteers.

Cybercrime is increasing – there were 4.6 million crimes committed the year ending December 2018 and this is now affecting police recruitment and training methods.

Now (this year) the profession has become a graduate entry one, for those keen on a career as a Police Officer, I think it should be clarified that there are now 3 main entry routes:

- a) 3 year degree apprenticeship
- b) Degree in any subject – further 2 years study/training
- c) Degree in a specific police studies subject – shorter further training

There is also a “Police Now” graduate training programme on offer – this is 2 years and aimed at those with any degree without any previous knowledge or experience who want to be Police Detectives. There are 30 police forces across England and Wales involved.

For more information on this career, see individual police force websites (such as [www.lincs.police.uk](http://www.lincs.police.uk) and [www.humberside.police.uk](http://www.humberside.police.uk)) as well as:

- [www.joiningthepolice.co.uk](http://www.joiningthepolice.co.uk)
- [recruit.college.police.uk](http://recruit.college.police.uk)
- [www.policenow.org.uk](http://www.policenow.org.uk)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) (general careers website)

## ***SOCIAL CARE***

The adult social care sector has certainly been highlighted in the news lately and is one that is crying out for people of all backgrounds and qualifications to enter and take up various roles – although it currently has 1.49 million people employed, it will need up to 580,000 more workers by 2035 to meet the growing demand for care and support.

I see many students, in their careers interviews, who are aiming for careers within the health sector but very few within this one. If you feel you are a caring, “people person”, who can show skills in effective communication, listening, empathy, and have a preference/desire to help people in a more counselling, social, creative, less scientific/health focussed way, think about

these too! Professional roles include: Social Worker (various specialist roles), Occupational Therapist, Complementary Therapist, Probation Officer, Art/Music/Drama Therapist, Youth and Community Officer/Manager, Manager/ Team Leader (in variety of settings), Specialist Co-ordinator (dementia, end of life care co-ordinator), Activities Co-ordinator/Manager, Housing Support Officer, Psychologist (Clinical, Forensic, Educational to name a few branches), Prison Officer/Manager, Counsellor (for variety of organisations), Welfare Rights Officer...

For more information on these and other roles, at various levels, see [www.skillsforcare.org.uk](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk) as well as [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

## ***ENGINEERING***

Apart from the medicine and science sectors, the engineering sector is another that has also been involved and utilised to benefit the country during the current pandemic – UCL and Mercedes MG HPP have adapted an existing breathing aid to help Covid-19 patients breathe more easily. TWI, one of the world's most well known research and technical organisations, have offered research facilities for material analysis, mechanical testing and failure analysis. A consortium including Airbus, BAE Systems, Rolls Royce and Siemens have come together to increase the production of medical ventilators for the UK too.

This all shows how engineering can be so important to our everyday lives, even in a state of worldwide crisis.

For more information on the vast number of career opportunities within engineering, see [www.engineeringuk.com](http://www.engineeringuk.com), [www.tomorrowsengineers.co.uk](http://www.tomorrowsengineers.co.uk), [www.theiet.org](http://www.theiet.org) and [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

In addition...

...Success At School have produced some useful careers information on engineering that includes an engineering worksheet to help with your career planning...see the link: <https://mailchi.mp/successatschool/careers-in-engineering-your-complete-guide-1277051>

Their website, too, is also, worth a look – [www.successatschool.org](http://www.successatschool.org) – I do include this on my “useful websites” handout given out in group sessions/ talks/careers events too

## ***NEW WEBSITES /APP***

Springpod is all about connecting you with potential employers, for matters concerning work experience, higher level/degree apprenticeships as well as provides information on careers and universities/courses - check it out on [www.springpod.co.uk](http://www.springpod.co.uk) Registration on the site is free for you and your

parents/carers – the app has been given 9 ratings of 4.4 on the Apple store and is also available on desktop and Google Play

Careermap - see [www.careermap.co.uk](http://www.careermap.co.uk) for some useful guidance on careers, apprenticeships, graduate/professional employment opportunities – you and your parents/carers can subscribe to their magazine too (free digital download)

**AND FINALLY...**

- In a recent Springpod poll, Adrian Heard of The Independent (1<sup>st</sup> May 2020) declared the 3 most popular career choices amongst those aged 18-24 years....Scientist, Actor...and....Teacher!
- Here are some of the strangest jobs out there at the moment...some of which you may well have heard of!...and they are all REAL!...Pet Food Tester (need background in food science!), Teddy Bear Surgeon (with Build A Bear), Snake Milker (more common in the USA...one such employee at Kentucky Zoo milks up to 1,000 snakes a week...he has been seriously bitten 8 times in 50 years), Waterslide Tester (Sebastian Smith was the first, employed with First Choice), Professional Sleeper (with NASA), Warden of the Swans (Christopher Perrins - conducts annual census of swans on the Thames) and finally...Zombie! (employed by the Dungeons chain – can earn £30,000 salary!)

**KEEP RESEARCHING...**



**.....AND BE SAFE!**

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**(including contributions from Mrs Kathryn Bradbury (Careers Leader)**

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