

Scope and opportunities

Biochemistry is the study and application of substances, reactions and processes in animals, plants, bacteria and viruses. Biochemists work in hospitals, industry, drug design and development, environmental sciences, forestry, agriculture, dietetics, hormone production, vaccine research, virology, immunology, microbiology, toxicology, food science, plant science and associated areas, and in areas from marine biology to entomology not just to carry out R&D work and develop new products but also to monitor the production, quality and safety of the product. Biochemists provide diagnostic service, carrying out tests on blood, urine and other body fluids, while researching the underlying causes of disease and methods of treatment. They find jobs in pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies, food brewing and biotechnology industry. The postgraduate degree in Biochemistry also provides opportunity for advanced teaching in universities, colleges, medical, dental and veterinary schools, and consulting or allied work. Observational, organizational, computational skills, planning and team work are important for biochemists.