

Careers outside Medicine

Although they are not obvious, there are many other options outside of the NHS that can offer you a satisfying and fulfilling career. This could be in something totally unrelated to your medical studies or it could be in alternative medically related careers. For example:

- ➔ You can use your medical degree for the “*degree*” part rather than the “*medical*” part, and apply for any job alongside graduates from every other degree field. This can open up opportunities in many fields such as:

Management	Insurance and financial services
Accountancy	Law
Engineering	Leisure industry
Arts, crafts	Retail, sales sectors
Counselling, guidance, social work	Human Resources
Psychology related careers	IT/technology

Perhaps this list also clearly shows that you don't have to be a doctor just because you have done a medical degree!

Another option available to you is to apply your medical knowledge in a career related to or allied to medicine. For example:

- Working for drug companies
- Medical journalism
- Medico-legal law
- ‘Scientific services’ such as Oceanology, Physics, Genetics, Forensics, Toxicology, Metallurgy, Pharmacology to name but a few
- Allied health professionals such as Radiology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Orthopaedics, Optometry, Dietetics, Nutrition, Pharmacy, Podiatry, Midwifery, Health promotion, Occupational Health, Sexual Health
- Therapeutic services in sport, dance, drama, play, arts, speech and language
- Complementary medicine
- Osteopathy
- Chiropractice
- Dentistry

A really useful website with a host of careers information related to careers outside and allied to medicine is ‘Graduate Prospects’ – this is the UK’s official graduate online careers support service. On the site, you can explore thousands of jobs and alternative career paths outside of medicine. You can also research further qualifications/retraining that may be required of alternatives to medicine. The site is very well structured, easily navigable and is updated regularly to offer the most up to date information: www.prospects.ac.uk.

It is important to realise that there are options open to you, many of which you may not have considered before, and that much will depend on your own work values, your skills set and your motivation in finding a career path that will be right for you.