

# Healthcare Science Career of the Week



## Gastrointestinal Physiologist

Area of HCS: Physiological Science

Pay scale: Band 4-7 (£18k-£55k)

**AMAZING FACT** | An adult intestine measure the length of about 7.5m (25ft), of which the small intestine measures 6m (20ft).

These guys go from top to bottom, following the entry of food at the mouth and the exit at the anus and all that falls in between. They study the gastrointestinal function and any diseases that are linked to it.

With the use of various tests and specialized equipment, procedures are carried out from: pH tests on stomach fluids to ultrasounds on the intestines. They work as part of a team that would include dieticians, colorectal surgeons and gastroenterologists (these are doctors that specialise in the GI tract).

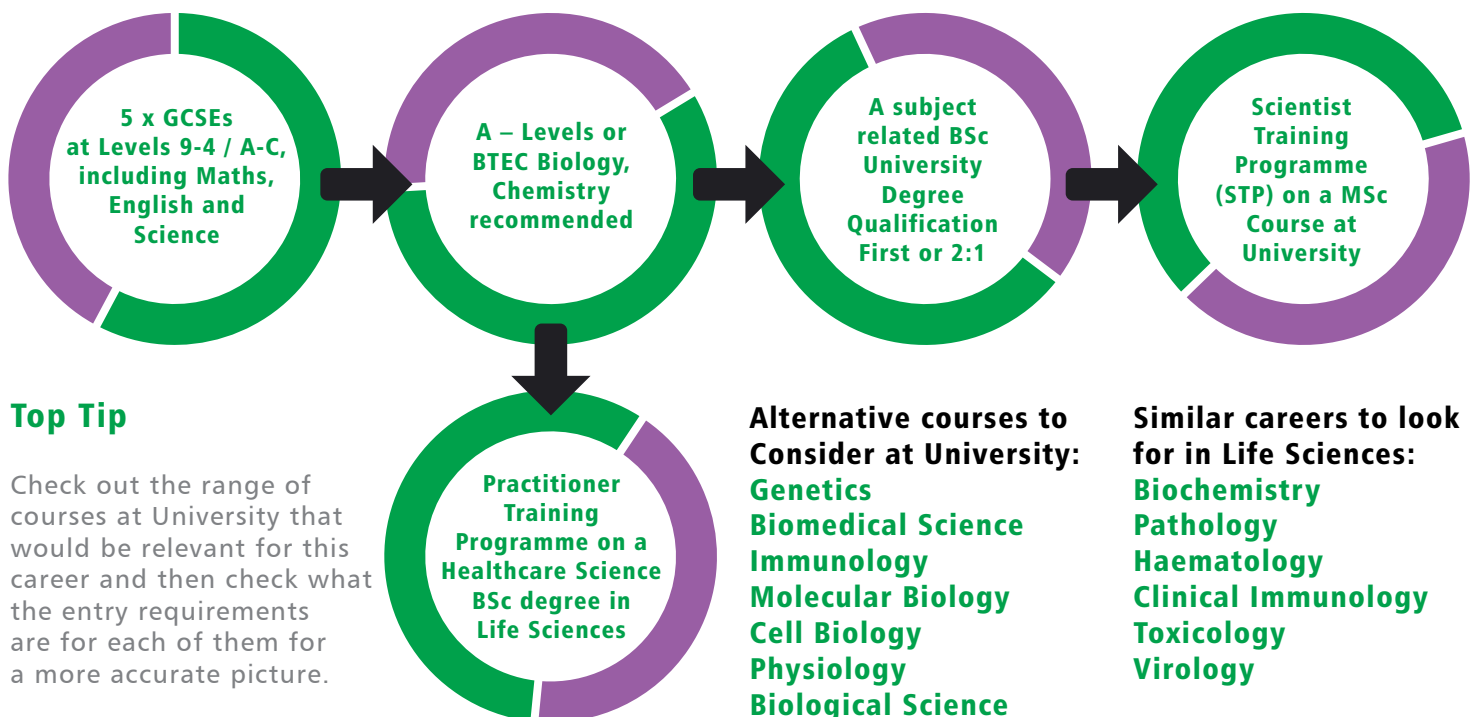
As this career is looking at the digestive system, you are more than likely to work with patients that are embarrassed & concerned about their condition. With examinations of the anal canal and rectum being part of the job, you would have to be mature and respectful whilst working with the patient.



## AMAZING FACT 2

The entire surface area of your gastrointestinal tract from your mouth to your anus is approximately 30-40 square meters, which is roughly the size of half the size of a badminton court!

### What to do to get into this career...



### Top Tip

Check out the range of courses at University that would be relevant for this career and then check what the entry requirements are for each of them for a more accurate picture.

### Alternative courses to Consider at University:

Genetics  
Biomedical Science  
Immunology  
Molecular Biology  
Cell Biology  
Physiology  
Biological Science

### Similar careers to look for in Life Sciences:

Biochemistry  
Pathology  
Haematology  
Clinical Immunology  
Toxicology  
Virology



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