

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



Geneticist

Area of HCS: Life Science
Pay scale: £30k-£80k

AMAZING FACT | If we removed your DNA and it was stretched out it would reach to the moon 6,000 times!

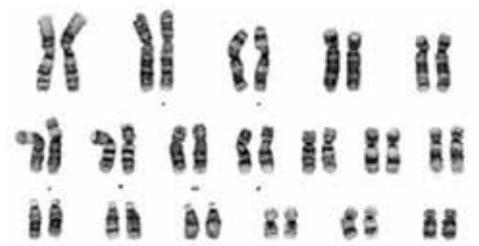
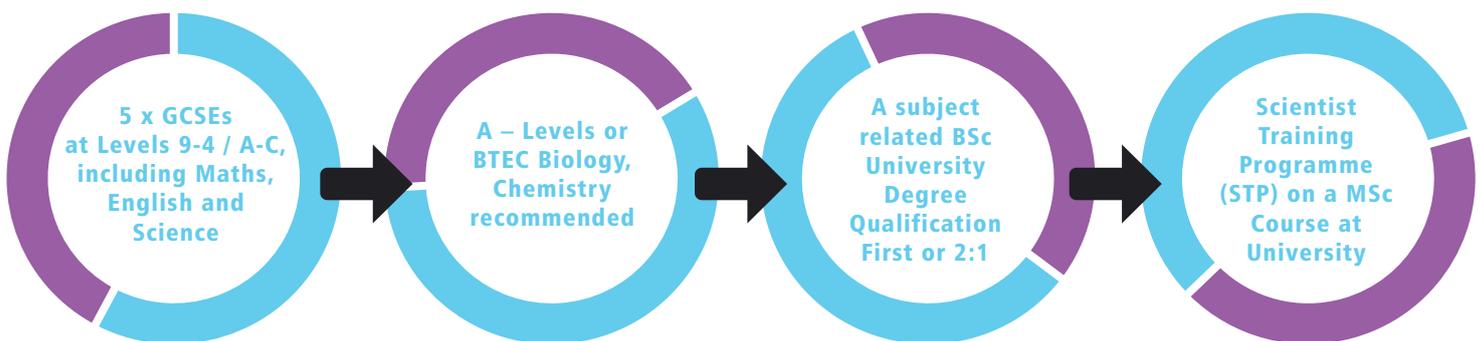
These guys read the blueprints of the human body to identify any abnormal building blocks or 'genes'.

They do this by examining patients DNA samples, the blueprints. They can pick out different diseases that are inherited and are pre-programmed into peoples DNA. The tests can be performed on cells from a baby before they are born, or to check if parents are carriers of a gene or to diagnose conditions, such as Downs Syndrome.

These guys were involved when Angelina Jolie was tested for the BRCA gene. A small change in this part of the massive blueprint has a 87% probability of the patient developing breast cancer. This gives the patient options and ability to have preventative surgery, just like Angelina did as she was a carrier of the altered BRCA gene.

Although these guys rarely have patient contact, they make a huge difference and are completely aware of the impacts they have on the patients and their families.

What to do to get into this career...



AMAZING FACT 2

With the emergence of genetics and the advancement of technology, a new sector in Healthcare Science has been created. It is called Bio-Informatics. Why has this been created? Well, as we develop a better understanding of genetics and how this relates to our health, we are going to have to store data such as an individual's genetic code... that would take a lot of paper!

Top Tip

Check out our video on Angelina Jolie and why she had a double mastectomy on our YouTube Channel – MedicalMavericksTV

Alternative courses to Consider at University:

Genetics
Biomedical Science
Microbiology



VIDEO

You can check out an interview with geneticists and see what they do in an awesome video on our website. Go to www.medicalmavericks.co.uk/book to see the video.



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