

Building the Plant Health Profession

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Plant Health is fundamental to all plant life. Plants grown for agriculture, horticulture, forestry and in the wild are all susceptible to pests and pathogens.

Climate change causing temperature, nutritional and water stress further increases risk of disease.

In the UK, many plant-based professions still struggle to recruit.

If you want to make a real difference to people's lives, the healthcare sector opens up many career possibilities. Discover the skills, qualifications and work experience you'll need to get started

What areas of healthcare can I work in?

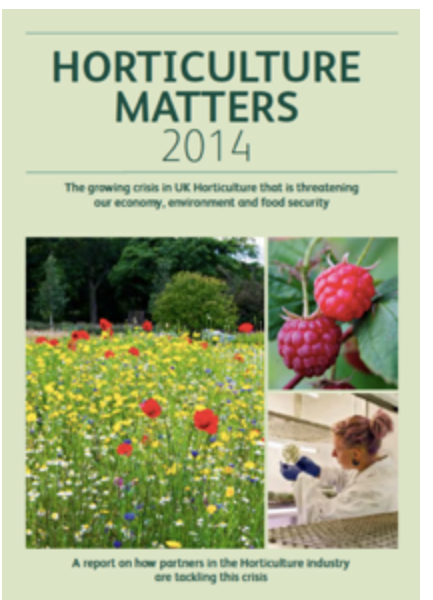
Employment opportunities can be grouped into:

- allied health (e.g. physiotherapy, radiography, and occupational therapy)
- ambulance services
- complementary therapies
- dentistry
- health informatics
- health promotion
- healthcare administration and management
- healthcare science (e.g. clinical engineering, biomedical science, and pathology)
- medical equipment sales
- medicine (e.g. doctors, surgeons, and GPs)
- medical research
- midwifery
- nursing
- nutrition and diet

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experiences/job-sectors/healthcare/overview-of-the-healthcare-sector-in-the-uk>

https://www.rsb.org.uk/images/news/2019/UKPSF_Growing_the_future.pdf

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/education-learning/pdf/Training/1016-rsb-hort-careers-brochure-v6.pdf>



But, careers advice for those interested in life sciences show a range of possible healthcare opportunities that all relate to medicine

Could improved presentation of career opportunities in plant health help recruitment?



We have established two schemes to showcase rewarding career opportunities in plant health

This work is Defra supported and works with the plant-based professions and related agencies through the UK Plant Sciences Federation and the Royal Society of Biology



The Plant Health Professional Register

Answering the need for a network of trained Plant Health Professionals in the UK, the PHPR recognises plant health competencies in the workforce.

The PHPR register is growing with 90 currently registered from government and horticulture.

Registrants receive support in their continuing professional development via the PHPR links with workplace schemes.

Applications are accepted online. View the PHPR professional competencies at:-

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/register/plant-health-register>

Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships

A competitive academic scheme providing summer research placements that address Defra priorities.

Priorities for 2019 were: *Detection or Control; Data & Modelling; Trade; Host plants / earth observations; High-risk pests or pathogens; Knowledge Exchange; Oak Health.*

In 2019, Defra, the BSPP, N8 AgriFood and the David Colegrave Foundation funded placements at £3K each

2017: 145 student applications for 4 studentships

2018: 181 student applications for 9 studentships

2019: 198 student applications for 9 studentships

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/plant-studentships>

Both schemes raise the profile of plant health and are gaining interest across sectors

We are grateful to the following agencies for funding support



Interested to find out more?

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