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Summer Jobs And Part-Time Work



By working during the summer, you can obtain some useful experience by choosing to work in a health-related area. During term-time for financial reasons you may also decide to work part-time. However, it must be emphasized how important it is that you focus on studying towards your medical degree. There is no point in sacrificing your long-term career goals for the sake of earning some extra money.

Examples of paid work

Below are some examples of paid work in health-related areas:

- Hospital auxiliary
- Healthcare assistant or care worker (you can often obtain this work from a nurse bank or agency)
- Medical Secretary
- Theatre Technician
- Laboratory work in a hospital
- Research Scholarship

For flexible and temporary jobs in the NHS, the NHS Professionals website is a good place to look.

Working in a medically related job

By considering this type of work, you can:

- gain some important skills (e.g. people skills, by dealing with patients; team-working skills)
- get some relevant exposure to potential career pathways
- see healthcare from a different view point

Case-studies

'Towards the end of my first year at medical school I realised it would be useful to have some way of earning a bit of extra cash and thus applied to be a Health care assistant with the Nurse Bank at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital via the NHS Jobs website, I had a very brief interview and undertook my 4 days training (I was let off 1 day as I was a medic) and haven't looked back since. I tend to do about a week of work each holiday (normally earning around £600) and the occasional Saturday (earning about £110) during term time. For me it was the perfect job as it is incredibly flexible and fairly well paid if you are working at the weekend as well as giving you the opportunity to get used to the hospital environment and talking to patients.'

Ian- 4th year medical student at the University of East Anglia

'When I started my degree I noticed a fair few local GP surgeries were looking for medical students to help in summarising notes at the practice, so I approached my local GP at home and asked if they needed any assistance. Though they had not directly advertised for this job, turns out they had a backlog of new patient notes that needed to be summarised onto their database. For the next 3 years, during each holiday I worked at the surgery to help them clear their backlog. The work involves going through each patients notes and print-outs and summarising the data onto their electronic record which the GP looks at before consulting. Apart from the good pay, the job meant you were constantly looking at referral and secondary care letters, so I actually learnt quite a bit from doing it via 'passive diffusion'. Many GP surgeries develop backlogs of patient notes that need to be summarised and hence

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there is certainly a market for medical students in this regard, so keep a look out. My other source of money came from working for the medical school on open and interview days. As well as being enjoyable, it also had a sense of giving something back to the medical school'

Paul - 4th year medical student at the Brighton and Sussex Medical School

'Google is at the heart of my strategy- I've tended to have a look at what interests me and then sent off my CV e.g. I've got an interest in genetics and managed to secure a fascinating summer of paid work at the Foundation for Genomics and Population Health in Cambridge. Google also led me to apply to the [Yale Bioethics Summer Intern program](#) which involved discussions of all things medical ethics with a passionate group of international students.'

Catherine - 4th year medical student at Aberdeen

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