



## Helpline Enquiries

### Neurology vs Neuroscience

#### Enquiry

*I've applied for a biochemistry degree and I am also interested in a career in neurology. Is it possible to enter a career in neurology through the biochemistry route and do you know of any websites where I can find information?*

#### Reply

There are 2 distinct career areas to be aware of:

**Neurologists** and **neurosurgeons** are both medical specialists. Both require a clinical medicine degree before specialising in one of these disciplines. Therefore, after studying Biochemistry you would need to complete a year [Graduate Entry Medical degree](#), followed by a two-year foundation programme and two or three years of core training.

A **neurologist** is a medical doctor with specialised training in diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system. As practicing physicians, they can order tests such as imaging studies including CT scans, MRI scans or laboratory tests such as CSF examination.

**Neurosurgeons** are medical doctors who specialize in performing surgical treatments of nervous system.

Further information see:

#### [Health Careers](#)

#### [Association Of British Neurologists](#)

#### [The Royal College of Surgeons of England](#)

#### [Society of British Neurological Surgeons](#)

**Neuroscientists** on the other hand work to understand and develop treatments for a range of neurological issues. These include the brain's function in mental health challenges such as depression or schizophrenia, the impact of trauma on the brain such as stroke and head injury, or the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as epilepsy, motor neurone disease or Alzheimer's disease. Most neuroscientists are involved in research, working in a range of settings such as universities, pharmaceutical companies or government agencies.

**A medical degree is not required.** After studying for a Biochemistry degree, you would then need to study for a MSc in Neuroscience and possibly follow this with a PhD.

Further Information

[British Neuroscience Association](#) has information on courses, careers and FAQ's

[Prospects](#) for careers information.

**The Helpline Team**

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