

# Neuroscience

The study of the nervous system



Learning about the nervous system helps scientists develop treatments for diseases

**N**euroscience is the study of the nervous system, which includes the brain, the spinal cord and networks of sensory nerve cells (neurons) throughout the body.

## **Why is neuroscience so important?**

Understanding the nervous system is important as it enables scientists to develop better treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's, and for mental illnesses.

It is also important for scientists to learn more about how the nervous system functions under normal circumstances as it will enable us to appreciate what happens when things go wrong.

## **What careers are available?**

Neuroscientists are today involved in much broader areas of study than before, including cellular, functional, evolutionary, computational, molecular and medical aspects of the nervous system. It is a field that integrates many aspects of science including biology, chemistry, physics, physiology, anatomy, and the study of emotional and cognitive functions. As such, there is a diverse range of jobs available within the field, including research, hospital and pharma careers.

## **What is the best way to pursue a career in neuroscience?**

There are many ways to get into a career in neuroscience. The standard career route tends to be via a PhD, followed by postdoctoral research or a medical doctorate and then finally specialising in neuroscience.

The choice of first degree prior to PhD is vast, including neuroscience, physiology, genetics, mathematics, physics, chemistry, computing and molecular biology.

## **Where can I find out more?**

Further information can be obtained through career advisers at school or university or through a number of learned societies, including:

The British Neuroscience Association

● [www.bna.org.uk](http://www.bna.org.uk)

The International Brain Research Organization

● [ibro.info](http://ibro.info)

The International Society for Neurochemistry

● [www.neurochemistry.org](http://www.neurochemistry.org)

The European Brain and Behaviour Society

● [www.ebbs-science.org](http://www.ebbs-science.org)

The Society for Neuroscience

● [www.sfn.org](http://www.sfn.org)