

The Careers Fair

I came to the Careers Fair with an interest in pathology, keen to find more information about training, experience and how to approach applications in the future.

It was great to find such a wide range of specialities at the Fair. On my way to the Pathology table I was intrigued by information on the role of a rheumatologist and all the subdivisions in Paediatric speciality training.

Each station offered different relevant specialists to chat with. The variety in experience levels allowed a wide range of questions to be asked. For example, the Emergency Medicine table was staffed by two consultants and someone still in training, so it was possible to contrast experiences during a typical day's training with the reality of being employed as a consultant. All the doctors and trainees I spoke with were very enthusiastic about their specialty and eager to answer questions.

And there was also no shortage of free merchandise! Some of my favourites from the day include, unsurprisingly, a Royal College of Pathologists bag and Pathology Week badge.

All the doctors at the Pathology table were friendly and approachable; I felt very welcome to ask as many questions as I wanted. The sign-up sheet for email updates at the Pathology table was so helpful, allowing me easy access to pathology updates and event notifications in the future.

Emma, a very helpful Histopathology trainee, taught me about the histopathology scoring system used in the speciality application. I hadn't previously been able to find this information, despite searching for it. This was an incredibly helpful conversation and will guide some of my extracurricular activities over the next few years.

This conversation reminded me the best way to get a glimpse into histopathology training is to talk with someone currently in training. Chatting with Emma gave me great insight into what "a day-in -the-life-of" looks like, including information about post-mortems and how much shadowing of a consultant occurs before you start being able to do tasks more independently.

I also asked about histopathology interviews, which led to really helpful information about the breakdown of the points system vs interview for an application, as well as what qualities might be prioritised when looking at histopathology candidates.

Seeing how supportive the pathology specialists are, and how involved the Manchester Medical Society is in creating collaborative events like the careers fair, has inspired me to start planning for my own Pathology Society at Manchester University.

The Royal College of Pathologists represented Pathology so well at the careers fair and is a wonderful source of information I can continue to turn to for future queries.

The Careers Fair offered lots of helpful booklets containing information and training about a wide range of future speciality careers. The whole visitor experience was insightful and enjoyable and I would thoroughly recommend attending, whether you're looking for

inspiration and general information or, like me, already have quite a clear idea of the specialism you'd like to focus on for your future career.