

Bitesize Careers - Where physics study can take you

The physics labour market overview

The focus on this section is the second Gatsby Benchmark, '**Learning from careers and labour market information**'.

A recent report published by the IOP, [Physics in Demand](#)¹, provides some excellent insights into the physics labour market which could be used with your pupils. At a basic level, the **Key messages from the report** (slide 4) could be used to convey that there are many opportunities in physics and not just for those with a university degree in the subject. The report also makes the case for transferrable skills and builds on the earlier session on Skills Builder (introduced in Section 2, session 2).

The report identifies a range of physics-related occupations which are categorised into 7 groups: Construction, Engineer, Health, Public & Regulatory, Scientist, Skilled Trade and Teaching. **Activity 1** presents an opportunity to review this information and asks how you might use this information with your students to find out more.

The report also introduces information about what people employed in a physics related career earn. Whilst earnings in itself is not the main reason to promote physics careers it is useful to give the figures to pupils so they can compare various occupations and be informed about the implications of a particular career pathway with regards to their earnings potential. **Activity 2** asks you to consider how you might design a session for students to consider occupations and the salaries one might realistically be expected to achieve.

The presentation moves on to show an interesting slide which highlights the number of jobs by qualification level. The key point here is that there are almost as many physics-demanding roles in occupations which typically require intermediate level qualifications as those that require a bachelor's degree, and a significant number requiring post-secondary qualifications below bachelor's degree level.

The last two slides in this session focus on the UK distribution of physics related industries showing where the different key sectors and where they are distributed regionally. This will be helpful for students to appreciate opportunities in their own locality as well as areas they may need to consider living in if they are to follow a particular industry. **Activity 3**, asks you to consider how you might use this information with your students.

Links

¹<https://www.iop.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Physics-in-demand-labour-market-uk-ireland.pdf>