

Epidemiologist

Also called: Malariologist, Pharmacoepidemiologist, Public Health Microbiologist

Investigate and describe the determinants and distribution of disease, disability, or health outcomes. May develop the means for prevention and control.

You'll usually need:

Level 2 (eg GCSEs)

- a minimum of Grade 4 in English and Maths
- strong grade in Biology
- it might be advantageous to have Triple Award Science

Level 3 (eg A-Levels, BTECs)

- studying at least two subjects from the sciences and related fields
- There is a lot of statistical analysis, which would make Maths a desirable subject
- many universities will ask for 3 A-Levels at AAA-BBB.
- Level 3 science BTEC will give you a wealth of valuable experience, from working with microscopes to planning a practical investigation. However, not all universities accept BTEC qualifications, so check with the degrees you would be thinking of doing.

A postgraduate degree, either a Masters or a PhD, in epidemiology or a related subject, such as public health, statistical science or biological science, to work as an epidemiologist.

Career path and progression

There is a structured career path within organisations such as the NHS and PHE.

What you'll do:

- Communicate research findings on various types of diseases to health practitioners, policy makers, and the public.
- Educate healthcare workers, patients, and the public about infectious and communicable diseases, including disease transmission and prevention.
- Plan and direct studies to investigate human or animal disease, preventive methods, and treatments for disease. Investigate diseases or parasites to determine cause and risk factors, progress, life cycle, or mode of transmission.
- Monitor and report incidents of infectious diseases to local and state health agencies.

These university subjects are related to this career:

Anatomy, Physiology,
Pathology and Kinesiology
Medical and health sciences

East Midlands growth: +13.2% from 2014 to 2024, creating 15,460 jobs

Natural and social science professionals

East Midlands median earnings: £36,292



Skills You'll need:

- Science
- Reading Comprehension
- Critical Thinking
- Speaking
- Active Learning

Working hours, patterns and environment

Most people say the following:

- Work Within a Group or Team: Extremely important.
- Work Schedules: Regular
- Responsibility for Outcomes and Results: Moderate responsibility.
- Freedom to Make Decisions: Some freedom.
- Duration of Typical Work Week: 40 hours.
- Coordinate or Lead Others: Very important.