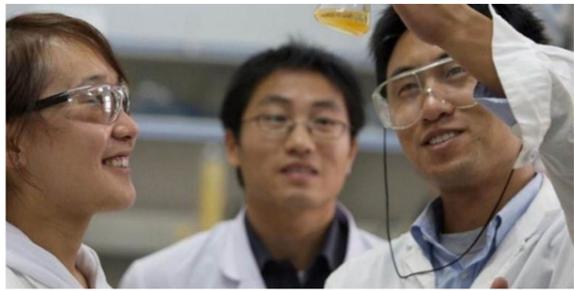




**Careers Education**

**GATSBY BENCHMARKS 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

A Stable Careers Programme  
 Learning from career and labour market information  
 Addressing the needs of each pupil  
 Linking curriculum learning to careers  
 Encounters with Employers and Employees



# Career of the week – Palaeontologist

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Labour market information

<p>Gender Split</p>	<p>Future Employment</p> <p>The predicted number of people employed in this job throughout the UK</p>		
<p>Employment Status</p>	<p>Check Start Profile to view in more detail.        Current employment by region</p> <p><b>Videos:</b>  <a href="https://youtu.be/1VukMb4yk5M">https://youtu.be/1VukMb4yk5M</a></p>		
<p>Starting Salary</p> <p><b>£25,000</b></p> <p>Source: U-Explore National Research</p>	<p>UK Average Salary</p> <p><b>£30,000</b></p> <p>Source: U-Explore National Research</p>		

**Useful GCSE / BTEC subjects for this career:**  
 English, Maths, Languages, Biology, History

<b>Job title:</b>	
<b>Palaeontologist</b>	Palaeontologists study the fossils of plants and animals.

<p><b>Career Pathways / Entry requirements:</b></p>	<p>You can get into this job through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a university course</li> </ul> <p><b>University</b> You could do a degree in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• botany</li> <li>• Earth sciences</li> <li>• geology</li> <li>• palaeontology</li> <li>• zoology</li> </ul> <p>Some employers, like museums or oil and gas companies, may ask for a postgraduate qualification like a MGeol, MBiol or MSci. Other employers, like universities or research institutions, will expect you to have completed, or be working towards, a PhD in your specialist area of interest.</p> <p><b>Entry requirements</b></p> <p>You'll usually need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English, maths and science</li> <li>• 2 or 3 A levels, or equivalent, including a science, for a degree</li> <li>• a degree in a relevant subject for postgraduate study</li> </ul> <p>a second language can be useful because you will often be working with colleagues from around the world.</p>
<p><b>Labour Market Information. Skills required:</b></p>	<p>You'll need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maths knowledge</li> <li>• knowledge of geography</li> <li>• analytical thinking skills</li> <li>• excellent verbal communication skills</li> <li>• science skills</li> <li>• excellent written communication skills</li> <li>• knowledge of physics</li> <li>• knowledge of chemistry including the safe use and disposal of chemicals</li> <li>• to be able to use a computer and the main software packages confidently</li> </ul>
<p><b>What you'll do:</b></p>	<p>Your day-to-day duties could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collecting data and samples on field trips</li> <li>• managing volunteers on field trips</li> <li>• examining and testing samples in the lab</li> <li>• doing research and publishing your findings</li> <li>• planning and delivering lectures developing courses and workshops</li> <li>• recording and classifying samples and collections</li> <li>• giving talks and managing displays and exhibitions</li> <li>• writing articles for scientific websites and magazines</li> <li>• providing expert advice for broadcasters on programmes</li> </ul>
<p><b>Labour Market Information. What you'll earn:</b></p>	<p>£25,000 - £60,000</p>
<p><b>Labour Market Information. Working hours, patterns and environment:</b></p>	<p>Working hours often vary but palaeontologists can usually expect to work around 45 hours each week. For those working on excavations, hours are very variable and overtime is sometimes required. Work is often based away from home, sometimes overseas. Digs require working outdoors in all weathers and involve kneeling and working in dirty, muddy conditions. Palaeontologists also spend time in laboratories and offices, researching and identifying different time periods that their fossils might have been from.</p>
<p><b>Career path and progression:</b></p>	<p>You could work as a geological surveyor, a consultant in mining and mineral exploration, or the oil and gas industry.</p> <p>You could move into university teaching and research.</p> <p>The skills you gain are also valued in the scientific media, TV and the financial sector.</p>

**Related careers:** [Archaeologist](#), [Geoscientist](#), [Ecologist](#)