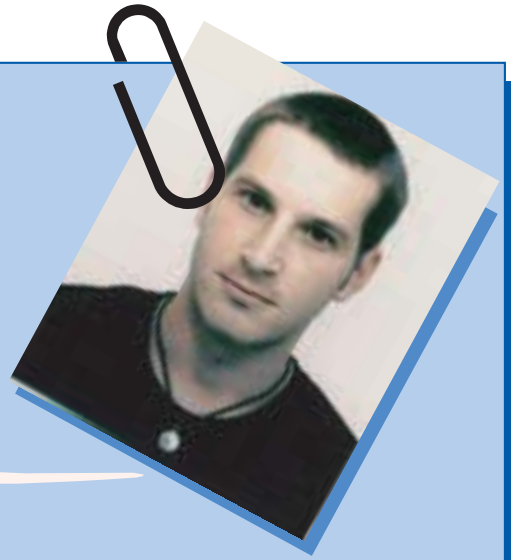


**Name:** Craig Brandwood

**Age:** 25

## Background:

Craig grew up in Beveley, East Yorkshire. He studied A-Levels in English Literature, Biology and Chemistry. He went to Liverpool University and did a three-year degree in Biochemistry.



## What sort of work do you do?

I am in my last (third) year of a PhD in Molecular Pathology. This involves looking very closely at cells to find out what causes a disease. The disease I am studying is called Padget's disease. This is the second most common bone disease, and it is very painful. Usually it affects elderly people, but there is a very rare form that affects young people.

In the morning I usually set up and look after the experiments I am doing. In the afternoon I will often meet with someone else in our research team to talk about how the work is going and plan our next steps. I also teach Anatomy to undergraduates.

## What is Padget's disease?

Bone is a living tissue. In healthy people bone is continually being broken down and rebuilt. In people with Padget's disease firstly too much bone is broken down so it goes very thin. Then new bone starts to be made very quickly. The bones bend and are very fragile. They are easily fractured. Normally this happens in the hips, but it can happen to bones around the eye or in the ear, producing blindness or deafness.

## What do you like about your work?

Obviously it is very rewarding to do a job where you are helping people who have a very painful disease. Also I get to work with lots of different people. A research team may include doctors, other PhD students, senior researchers, undergraduates doing work experience and lab. technicians. I have been to conferences all over the world to meet other people doing similar research, including San Francisco, Toronto, Malaysia and Australia.

## What do you want to do in the future?

I am going to do a degree in Medicine, but I am having a year off to earn some money first. I thought about doing Medicine when I first left school, but I wasn't sure so I did a broader degree. It's a good idea to look into what you want to do carefully, because there are different routes to getting the qualifications and experience you need. My way has taken a bit longer, but I'll be able to use my PhD later on when I qualify as a doctor.

## What's the worst bit?

Experiments have to be repeated many times to make sure the results are reliable. This can be a bit repetitive, but it doesn't bother me too much because the end result is worth it.