

BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS / MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Biomedical Scientists, also known as Medical Laboratory Technicians (formally known as Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers), carry out a range of laboratory tests to assist doctors in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Their work is highly varied and is both practical and analytical.

While Biomedical Scientists typically work for the NHS, in hospital laboratories, they can also work for the Medical Research Council, National Blood Authority, and in various pathology and research laboratories in the public and private sector.

Biomedical Scientists tend to specialise in one of the following areas –

- **Medical Microbiology**

Disease causing micro-organisms are isolated for identification and for susceptibility to antibiotic therapy. Diseases diagnosed in this way include meningitis, food poisoning and legionnaire's disease.

- **Clinical Chemistry**

Scientists analyse blood and other biological materials to assist in diagnosis, for example, diabetes. They carry out toxicological studies, test kidney and liver functions and help monitor therapies.

- **Transfusion Science**

Biomedical Scientists support hospital blood banks and the blood transfusion service. They prepare blood transfusions and plasma fractions to administer to patients and are responsible for ensuring that the blood groups of both donors and patients are compatible.

- **Haematology**

Involves the study of the blood to identify abnormalities within the different types of blood cells. Such tests are necessary to diagnose different types of anaemia and leukaemia.

- **Histopathology**

Tissue samples from surgical operations and autopsies are processed for microscopy using specialist techniques.

- **Cytology**

This discipline is best known for its work in screening cervical smears but it also provides a non-gynaecological service, such as histopathology where specialised techniques are used to prepare and study samples of cellular materials.

- **Virology**

Specialists test for infections such as rubella, herpes simplex, hepatitis and HIV and also screen selected populations at risk from virus disease.

- **Immunology**

Deals with conditions of the body's immune system and its role in infectious diseases, parasitic infestations, allergies, tumour growth, tissue grafts and organ transplant.

INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry into the profession is by means of an accredited / approved honours degree in Biomedical Science or equivalent qualification in biomedical science that meets the educational requirements of the Health Professions Council's (HPC) Standards of Proficiency.

If a candidate does not have an Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) accredited, or HPC approved, degree in Biomedical Science, a candidate will have to achieve the following:

- A degree that is confirmed suitable for registration by the IBMS
- A minimum of one year's in-service training in an approved laboratory
- A Certificate of Competence Registration Portfolio
- A final assessment – success at this stage leads to the IBMS Certificate of Competence which must be submitted to the HPC with an application for registration.

Once all these stages have been completed, and registration with the HPC has been gained, a candidate can use the title of Biomedical Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician.

REGISTRATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL BODY

To use the title Biomedical Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician a candidate must be registered with the HPC.

In order to gain HPC registration a candidate is required to hold a Certificate of Competence awarded by the IBMS.

CASEWORKER TREATMENT

B&C

The job meets the skills criteria when the post requires the candidate to be registered with the HPC.

To check an OSN is registered with the HPC, click on the link below –

<http://register.hpc-uk.org/lisa/onlineregister/RegistrantSearchInitial.jsp>

The job titles Biomedical Scientist and Medical Laboratory Technician are protected by law. A candidate must be registered with the HPC before they can work as a Biomedical Scientist or Medical Laboratory Technician. Caseworkers should **not** grant conditional approval.

TWES

Training

The post meets the TWES training criteria when the candidate is undertaking the minimum one-year in-service training in an approved laboratory, and the TWES criteria are satisfied.

Work Experience

This occupation is suitable for work experience providing the entry level to qualify for the work experience is at, or above, NVQ level 3, the work experience programme is at NVQ level 3 or above, and the criteria outlined in the guidance notes are met. Caseworkers should ensure that the work experience post is additional to normal staffing requirements.

SALARY

The following information is from the NHS Agenda for Change.

Job Title	Band	Salary
Biomedical Scientist	Band 5	£19,683 - £25,424
Biomedical Scientist Team Leader	Band 6	£23,458 - £31,779
Biomedical Scientist Specialist	Band 6	£23,458 - £31,779
Biomedical Scientist Advanced	Band 7	£28,313 - £37,326
Biomedical Scientist Team Manager	Band 7	£28,313 - £37,326

ADVERTISING

The Biomedical Scientist

Stephouse
 North Farm Road
 Tonbridge
 TN2 3DR
 Tel: 020 7713 0214
 Fax: 020 7436 4946

NHS Jobs

www.jobs.nhs.uk

www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk

www.careerscene.com

FURTHER INFORMATION

Institute of Biomedical Science

12 Coldbath Square

London

EC1R 5HL

Tel: 020 7713 0214

Fax: 020 7436 4946

Website: www.ibms.org

E-mail: mail@ibms.org

Health Professions Council

Park House

184 Kennington Park Road

London

SE11 4BU

Tel: 020 7582 0866

Fax: 020 7820 9684

Website: www.hpcuk.org

E-mail: info@hpcuk.org