APPRENTICESHIPS

Advanced Laboratory Technician Apprenticeship

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The benefits of a Laboratory Technician apprenticeship include:

- Gain experience working in a laboratory setting and develop skills from industry professionals.
- An employer-led apprenticeship provides you with the opportunity to work with a wide range of employers, including chemical companies, primary and secondary pharmaceutical companies, bio-technology firms and the nuclear industry.
- Successful completion of your apprenticeship could lead to progression onto a variety of careers including forensic science, scientific analysis, the health service or education.

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Laboratory Technician

Level	3
Qualification	Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science. If you already have a qualification at or above this level, please contact us to check eligibility.
Duration	Up to 24 months
Entry requirements	5 GCSEs at grades A*-C including English Language, Maths and Science or a Level 2 or 3 qualification in the field of Science and/or Technology. Employment of a minimum of 30 hours per week within a relevant role.
Progression	E.g. Degree Apprenticeship Pathway (Chemical Science) at Manchester Metropolitan University

Occupation Profile

As an apprentice Laboratory Technician, you will work in one of a wide range of employers, including but not limited to, chemical companies, primary and secondary pharmaceutical companies, bio-technology firms, manufacturers of formulated products, the nuclear industry, or other companies that offer analytical science services. Your role as an apprentice Laboratory Technician will involve you learning how to carry out routine and one-off laboratory testing, and how to perform a variety of technical support functions for your employer. You will learn how to work safely and ethically in a regulated environment, developing understanding of both laboratory practice and key health and safety regulations that will increase your career prospects. You will learn the importance of quality control and how to handle laboratory materials safely and effectively. You will acquire a nationally recognised science qualification at Level 3 (if you do not have one already), demonstrating your science subject knowledge in some key areas of scientific understanding. Laboratory Technicians are expected to work both individually and as part of a laboratory team, so as part of your apprenticeship you will be coached in important employment skills and behaviours (see below). By the end of your apprenticeship you will be able to work with minimum supervision, taking responsibility for the quality and accuracy of the work that you do, and be able to work proactively to find solutions to problems and identify areas to improve practice in your working environment.

Skills & Knowledge

On successful completion of the Level 3 apprenticeship, you will be able to demonstrate that you can:
1. Work safely in a laboratory, maintaining excellent housekeeping whilst following appropriate safety, environment, and risk management systems.
2. Understand and follow quality procedures to meet the requirements of quality standards relevant to the workplace.
3. Understand the internal and external regulatory environment pertinent to the sector and the employer and comply with regulations proficiently.
4. Prepare for laboratory tasks using the appropriate scientific techniques, procedures and methods.
5. Perform laboratory tasks following specified methodologies, such as Standard Operating Procedures.
6. Demonstrate technical competence in the use of specified instrumentation and laboratory equipment, including calibration where required.
7. Produce reliable, accurate data, and keep accurate records of laboratory work undertaken, and results.
8. Analyse, interpret and evaluate data and identify results requiring further investigation, seeking advice of senior colleagues as appropriate.
9. Understand and apply statistical techniques for data presentation.
10. Communicate scientific information appropriately, including the use of Laboratory Information Management systems, either digital or paper based.
11. Recognise problems and apply appropriate scientific methods to identify causes and achieve solutions.
12. Participate in continuous performance improvement.
13. Develop and apply theoretical knowledge of relevant science and technology required for the sector & job role.
14. Understand the business environment in which the company operates including your personal role within the organisation, ethical practice and codes of conduct.

Behaviours

As a laboratory technician you must also demonstrate the required attitudes, behaviours and interpersonal skills associated with the professional workplace including the ability to:

- communicate effectively using a full range of skills: speaking; listening; writing; body language; presentation
- work and interact effectively within a team
- work independently and take responsibility for initiating and completing tasks
- understand impact of work on others, especially where related to diversity and equality
- manage time and be able to complete work to schedule
- handle change and respond to change management processes.

Delivery and assessment

Delivery of the knowledge qualification is by distance learning with targeted support for individual apprentices provided by a qualified science teacher and trainer. This study will take place through access to the College's Virtual Learning Environment, web-based one-to-ones and face to face support where appropriate. This gives you, as the apprentice, the greatest possible flexibility to fit your learning around your job role and other commitments.

Development of the job role competencies and professional skills and behaviours can be delivered exclusively by Bury College, co-delivered with a workplace mentor who will work alongside our tutor to support and log your progress. You will have a dedicated, qualified assessor to support your teaching and learning in your development of the knowledge qualification and technical competence as a Laboratory Technician.

Assessment involves observation of the duties carried out in the work place and online through a range of methods including:

- Behaviour logs
- Synoptic Assessment Tests
- Vocational Competence Discussions
- Scenario Case studies
- A formal end assessment

Up to three, one week work-related residentials are compulsory components of the course, where some classroom and laboratory-based teaching and learning will take place.

Progression opportunities

Your apprenticeship as a Laboratory Technician could lead you into a variety of career choices, such as work in the chemical industry, in primary and secondary pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, formulated products, nuclear companies, and analytical science services. Completion of the apprenticeship can also lead on to the Degree Apprenticeship Pathway (Chemical Science) at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Professional registration

The apprenticeship is recognised by the relevant professional bodies at Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) level, and there is a requirement that the technician will participate in subsequent continuing professional development on completion of the apprenticeship.

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