

## Factsheet 29

### Laboratory

### Technician

National Apprenticeship Service

#### Overview

This Apprenticeship is for anyone interested in working in a laboratory setting. Laboratory technicians support scientists and help carry out tests, research and investigations. They work across many industries and can be involved in activities ranging from developing new products and diagnosing diseases to measuring pollution levels.

The prime target sectors for laboratory technicians are engineering manufacture and education. In research done by SEMTA, the number of laboratory technicians was identified as two million.

As an apprentice, you'll train as a junior laboratory technician and learn practical scientific skills. You will work as part of a team with other scientists and technicians and the nature of your work will depend on your employer. You may help collect and analyse samples; prepare cultures or specimens; set up experiments; and record and present data.

Starting salary (once qualified):  
£13,000 - £16,000.

#### What is an Apprenticeship

An Apprenticeship is a mix of real work and learning. Apprentices earn a wage and get experience whilst working towards a number of qualifications. An Apprenticeship follows a Level 2 programme and can lead onto an Advanced Apprenticeship which is a Level 3 programme.

#### Example Job Roles as an Apprentice

- Laboratory Technician within Research Laboratory, Hospital Laboratory, Environmental Science Laboratory, or Laboratory within an Educational Establishment

Successful apprentices may progress to:

- Senior Technician
- Team Leader Technician

#### Apprenticeship Framework

There are a number of elements to each Apprenticeship and this is called the framework. Each Apprenticeship framework has three main strands:

- competence based element
- technical element
- skills element

The three strands are sometimes accompanied by additional qualifications to give the most relevant skills and knowledge required for the job.

## Competence Element

**Apprenticeship** – NVQ level 2 Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities

**Advanced** – NVQ level 3 Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities

## Technical Element

**Apprenticeship** –

Level 2 Certificate in Laboratory Technical Skills

BTEC First Diploma in Applied Science

**Advanced** –

Level 3 qualification from the following:  
Certificate in Laboratory Technical Skills or  
BTEC National Award/Certificate or Diploma  
in Applied Science

## Skills Element

**Apprenticeship** –

Application of Number Level 1

Communication Level 1

**Advanced** –

Application of Number Level 2

Communication Level 2

## Other Additional Study

Employment Rights and Responsibilities

## Apprenticeships Available

- Apprenticeship (average 21 months) ✓
- Advanced Apprenticeship (average 42 months) ✓
- Higher Apprenticeship ✗

## Progression Routes

- Advanced Apprenticeship
- Higher Education
- Leadership Role
- Senior Role

## Options within the Framework

This will depend on employer and workplace setting.

## Already Employed?

Are you currently employed but not working towards qualifications? Speak to your employer about converting to an Apprenticeship and ask them to call 08000 150 600 for more information.

## For more Information and to Apply

Visit:

[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

[www.semta.org.uk](http://www.semta.org.uk)

If you require further advice or support on Apprenticeships please contact your local Connexions or Careers Advice Service.