

# Labour Market Intelligence Series

Your guide to health and life sciences



## Overview:

Health and Life Sciences encompasses a wide variety of areas. The main themes are: physiological sciences, clinical engineering medical physics and life sciences. The sector involves lab based work in the development of medicines and treatments, as well as biomedical engineering eg. designing artificial body parts.

## Future growth:

In Wiltshire, over the next 10 years, there will be a need for 10% more staff to be trained in this sector.

## Training needs:

To get a job or training place, you'll need to demonstrate an interest in science and technology, and have a desire to make a difference to people's lives. You'll learn the skills you'll need for a healthcare science career while you train but undertaking work experience, volunteering or shadowing with a healthcare science team at a local hospital will help with this.

## Advertised positions and salaries:

### Biomedical Scientist

– test samples from patients to support doctors and healthcare professionals in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

**Earn from £21,500 up to £35,000**

### Prosthetist / Orthotist

– provide care for people who need an artificial limb (prosthesis) or a device to support or control part of the body (orthosis).

**Earn from £21,500 up to £28,000**

### Clinical Engineers

– design, develop and maintain the equipment used for diagnosing illness and treating patients. In this job you might work with technology to research disease.

**Earn from £21,000 up to £40,000**

### Medical Physicists

– research and develop techniques and equipment used by medical staff to diagnose illness and treat patients.

**Earn from £21,000 up to £33,000**

### Operating Department Practitioner

– support operating theatre staff and provide care to patients, before, during and after surgery

**Earn from £21,000 up to £27,500**

### Research Scientist

– plan and carry out experiments and investigations to broaden scientific knowledge in a range of areas, from life sciences to industrial processes.

**Earn from £23,000 up to £42,000**

## Courses related to sector:

Level 2/BTEC/GCSE  
Science

Level 3/A Level  
Human Biology  
Biology  
Chemistry

### Level 4/HE

Biochemistry (University of Exeter, University of Bath)  
Healthcare Science (Plymouth University, University of the West of England)  
Biosciences (Petroc, Plymouth University, South Devon College)  
Biology (University of Bath, Bath Spa University, The Open University)  
Lifesciences (Oxford Brookes University)



## Skills, qualities and qualifications:

This sector tends to be suited to people with a keen interest in science and engineering. Good skills to have are: accuracy, attention to detail, being able to problem solve, communication and work well with others.

## Apprenticeships

### Types of Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships in healthcare science are growing, especially in areas such as medical laboratories and decontamination services. You might be familiar with some of the choices, but there are plenty of others that might just surprise you.

### Levels of Apprenticeship

- Level 2 - equivalent to GCSE's
- Level 3 - equivalent to A Levels
- Level 4 - equivalent to Foundation Degree

An Apprenticeship to Level 2 takes two years to complete. Apprentices may continue for an additional year to achieve Level 3.

Level 4 is for those who want to progress into Technical, Design and Management careers.

Further information on Apprenticeships visit:  
<https://workwiltshire.co.uk/apprenticeships/>

Search and apply for Apprenticeships:  
[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

Apprenticeships in health and life sciences include but are not limited to:

<http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

Healthcare Support Worker L2

Healthcare Assistant Practitioner L5

Animal Technologist L3

Dental Technician L5

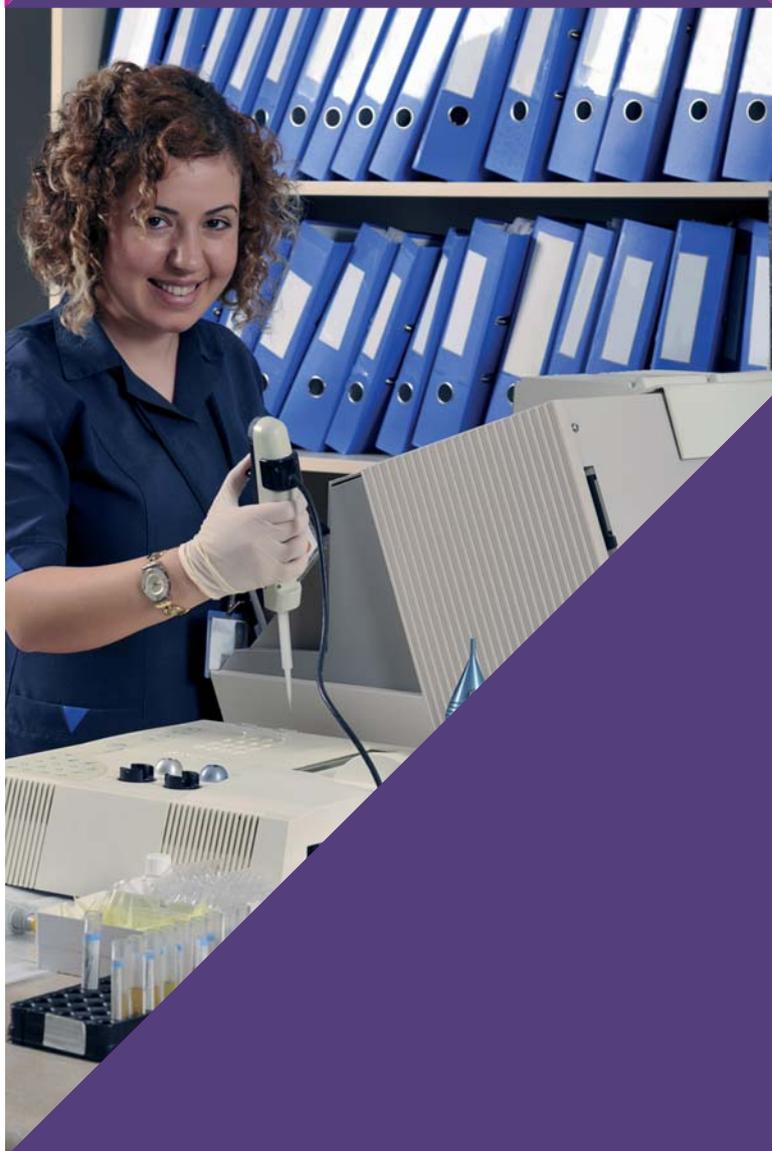
Dental Nurse L3

Food Technologist L3

Personal Trainer L3

For a full list visit:

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/apprenticeship-standards#apprenticeship-standards-approved-for-delivery](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/apprenticeship-standards#apprenticeship-standards-approved-for-delivery)



## Views from the sector:

“Aging populations, chronic/lifestyle diseases, emerging-market expansion, and treatment and technology advances are expected to spur life sciences sector growth in 2015. However, efforts by governments, health care providers, and health plans to reduce costs, improve outcomes, and demonstrate value is dramatically altering the health care demand and delivery landscape. It is becoming increasingly evident that the global life sciences sector is operating in an era of significant transformation.”

Simon Hammett, UK and EMEA lead for Healthcare and Life Sciences and Monitor Deloitte Partner.

[www.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/life-sciences-and-healthcare/articles/2015-global-life-sciences-outlook.html](http://www.deloitte.com/uk/en/pages/life-sciences-and-healthcare/articles/2015-global-life-sciences-outlook.html)



## Where to study:

Wiltshire College offer a Access to Higher Education Dipolma, where you can study Biology and Chemistry.

University of Exeter, Plymouth University and the University of the West of England offer Biochemistry and Healthcare science courses.

Other local universities may also offer related courses, check websites and prospectuses for details.

For more information, follow these useful links:

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles)

[www.councilofhealthcarescience.ac.uk/careers](http://www.councilofhealthcarescience.ac.uk/careers)

[www.theguardian.com/careers/healthcare-scientist-job-description](http://www.theguardian.com/careers/healthcare-scientist-job-description)

[www.sciencecareerpathways.com/pathway/Default.aspx?ActiveTabIndex=1&Industry=1&SectorCode=0&FunctionCode=0&DepartmentCode=0&QualLevelCode=0](http://www.sciencecareerpathways.com/pathway/Default.aspx?ActiveTabIndex=1&Industry=1&SectorCode=0&FunctionCode=0&DepartmentCode=0&QualLevelCode=0)

[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/medicaltechnology.aspx](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/medicaltechnology.aspx)

## Wiltshire employers:

The map below shows some of the Health and Life Science employers in Wiltshire. This is not a definitive list and there are other employers across the county.



- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Catalent Pharma Solutions Ltd UK | 6 Bath ASU              |
| 2 Patheon UK                       | 7 Porton Biopharma Ltd  |
| 3 Vectura Group                    | 8 Tetricus              |
| 4 Becton Dickinson                 | 9 Public Health England |
| 5 GW Pharmaceuticals               |                         |



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