

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

ALSO KNOWN AS:

TECHNICAL OFFICER (BIOCHEMISTRY)

PRODUCTION LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

BIOLOGICAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

FOOD TESTING TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN

DRIVE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY WITH PRECISION AND INSIGHT.

Channel your inquisitive appreciation for data, research and precision into a diverse and fascinating career as a laboratory technician. Team players with a desire to work across many different fields, and those who seek the responsibility and reward of contributing to meaningful scientific outcomes, will thrive in this role.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a laboratory technician include:

- ☑ Attention to detail
- ☑ Chemistry or biology skills
- ☑ Digital literacy
- ☑ Numerical proficiency
- ☑ Technical comprehension

CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Team Leader
- Biomedical Engineer
- Environmental Engineer
- Biotechnologist

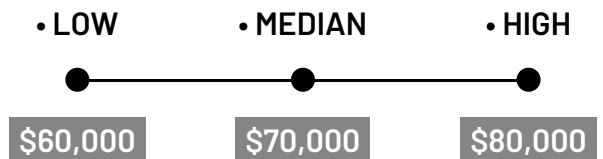
VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a laboratory technician include:

- ☑ Ethical
- ☑ Integrity
- ☑ Patience
- ☑ Resilient
- ☑ Team Player
- ☑ Investigative – “Thinker”

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Laboratory Technician can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

► Chemicals, Hydrocarbons and Refining ► Pharmaceutical and Medical Technology ► Polymers, Plastic and Rubber

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

• Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Science in Practice

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

• General Mathematics • Essential English

JOB OVERVIEW

Support important (and in some cases life-changing) scientific research as a laboratory technician by performing experiments, analyses, testing and preparation in a laboratory, under the direction of senior scientists.

Your numerical and organisational skills will be 'put to the test' as you'll prepare and perform diagnostic testing, utilise centrifuges and other lab equipment, mix compounds, and generally keep laboratory equipment and processes safe and operational as per industry standards.

Your meticulous record keeping and communication skills will also be called upon daily, and your technical knowledge and skill will see you employable within food manufacturing, pharmaceutical manufacturing as well as textiles, cosmetics and within hospital environments, to name but a few.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Laboratory technicians assist scientists to perform ethical laboratory testing of various materials by way of preparation, testing, handling, recording and maintaining laboratory equipment.

Your role may include duties as follows:

1. Follow directions to conduct testing and experiments for the purpose of gathering data and analysing results.
2. Ensure proper preparation, labelling and the storing of samples as per their categorisation, for referral, and future use.
3. Effectively maintain and use laboratory instruments – this will include cleaning, servicing and repairing for optimal use.
4. Reading and interpreting data, generating reports and maintaining accurate records for reference.
5. Ensuring all activities are performed safely, ethically and with compliance to Australian standards.

You will use your skills to effectively support scientific research, conduct experiments, and maintain laboratory operations across various industries including food manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, cosmetics, and healthcare.

HOW TO BECOME A LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Becoming a Laboratory Technician typically involves a combination of formal training and on-the-job experience. Here's a general pathway to enter this specialised profession:

1. Complete Year 10 or equivalent, with a focus on science, chemistry and physics subjects you could also complete a Certificate II in Sampling and Measurement (MSL20122)
2. Research potential employers in your area via a search engine, social media or job site. Even if there are no jobs advertised with the employer you're interested in, it can be a good idea to send a cover letter with your resume expressing your interest.
3. Gain practical experience in a glass fabrication workshop or manufacturing facility
4. Undertake a Certificate III in Laboratory Skills (MSL30122) through a traineeship or vocational training.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

A traineeship as a laboratory technician is the best pathway to gain employment in this field. You can undertake the following qualification/s as traineeships:

- Certificate III in Laboratory Skills (MSL30122)
- Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques (MSL40122)

As a trainee you will combine work with formal training, allowing you to gain practical skills and knowledge in a specific industry while earning a salary.

Duration: Traineeships typically last between 12 to 24 months, depending on the specific program and whether you are working full-time or part-time.

Work and study combination: As a trainee, you will work either full-time or part-time while receiving formal training from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Eligibility: Generally, traineeships do not require formal qualifications to enter, making them accessible to a wide range of individuals, including if you are a school leaver or someone looking to change careers.

Completion: On completion you will receive a nationally recognised qualification, showcasing your skill and experience.

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

Holding a degree in manufacturing, human resources, finance, economics, marketing or management can be helpful if you are considering taking a step into leadership or a business ownership position.