

Biomedical science

Biomedical scientists carry out a range of laboratory and scientific tests to support the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Operating theatres, accident and emergency (A&E) and many other hospital departments would not function without biomedical scientists. For example, in A&E, you would work in the blood sciences department, testing emergency blood transfusions for blood groups and samples from patients who have overdosed or had a heart attack.



Working life

Biomedical scientists investigate a range of medical conditions, including:

- cancer
- diabetes
- blood disorders (eg anaemia)
- meningitis

- hepatitis
- AIDS

You would also perform a key role in screening for diseases, identifying those caused by bacteria and viruses and monitoring the effects of medication and other treatments. You would learn to work with computers, sophisticated automated equipment, microscopes and other hi-tech laboratory equipment and you would use a wide range of complex modern techniques in your day-to-day work.

The work is highly varied, practical and analytical. You would usually specialise in one of three specific areas:

The work is highly varied, practical and analytical

- infection sciences ^[1]
- blood sciences ^[2]
- cellular sciences ^[3]

'What we do is vital for helping pathologists make a better diagnosis and find the right treatment for patients.'

Saghar Missaghian-Cully, senior biomedical scientist in histopathology

Read Saghar's story ^[4]

You could work for an NHS hospital trust or other NHS organisations. There are also opportunities with NHS Blood and Transplant ^[5] and Public Health England ^[6]. You will work as part of a team including other healthcare science staff ^[7], doctors ^[8] and nurses ^[9].

Entry requirements

To become a biomedical scientist, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) ^[10].

There are currently three main entry routes into becoming a biomedical scientist:

- through the NHS Practitioner Training Programme ([PTP](#) ^[11]) by taking an accredited integrated BSc degree in Healthcare Science (life sciences).
- a biomedical science degree accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) ^[12] and approved by the Health and Care Professions Council ([HCPC](#) ^[13])
- by gaining employment with the NHS as a trainee biomedical scientist.

Each route will need A-levels including at least one science. We recommend you contact universities to discuss exact entry requirements and whether any particular experience is required.

Other opportunities

You could become a healthcare science assistant or associate ^[14] who work in many areas of healthcare science and support biomedical scientists.

Must have skills

You'll need:

- an interest in science and technology
- good communication skills
- to be comfortable using modern technology and complex equipment
- a meticulous attention to detail
- good interpersonal skills and be able to work as part of a team.

Training and development

You could become a member of the Institute of Biomedical Science ^[15] who offer courses and events to support your development. There are also opportunities to specialise in particular areas of biomedical science such blood sciences, cellular sciences, infection sciences and microbiology). You could also teach or train current staff or the next generation of biomedical scientists, manage a biomedical science service or undertake clinical academic research.

Pay and benefits

You'll typically start at band 5 of the Agenda for Change (AfC ^[16]) pay system but could progress to band 9 with experience. You'll usually work a standard 37.5 hours per week and may work shifts. You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

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Live vacancies

Expand /
collapse

- View Vacancy ^[17]

Trainee Biomedical Scientist

Gateshead, NE9 6SX

■

■ **Salary:**

£25655.00 to £31534.00 a year

■ **Type:**

Permanent

■ **Employer:**

Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

- [View Vacancy](#)
- [View Vacancy](#) ^[18]

Biomedical Scientist in Histology (Band 5 Trainee)

Braddan, IM4 4RJ

■ **Salary:**

£28611.00 to £36275.00 a year

■ **Type:**

Permanent

■ **Employer:**

Manx Care

- [View Vacancy](#)
- [View Vacancy](#) ^[19]

Cellular Pathology Biomedical Scientist Manager (Or Trainee)

Coventry, CV2 2DX

■ **Salary:**

Depending on experience

■

Type:

Permanent



Employer:

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust



Biomedical Scientist - Band 5

Lyne Chertsey KT16 0PZ UK, KT16 0PZ



Salary:

£26,938 - £33,111 pa Inc. HCAS



Type:

Fixed term



Employer:

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



POCT Biomedical Scientist

Oldham, OL1 2JH



Salary:

£32306.00 to £39027.00 a year



Type:

Permanent



Employer:

The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

- View Vacancy
- View Vacancy [22]

Senior Biomedical Scientist

Eastbourne, BN21 2UD

- **Salary:**
£40057.00 to £45839.00 a year

- **Type:**
Permanent

- **Employer:**
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

- View Vacancy

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Find your course to become a biomedical science

Expand / collapse

Region

- Any -

Type of qualification

- Any -

Full or part time

- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 1 of 1 matches

Various

Courses in biomedical science [Opens in a new window](#)

[View course](#) [Opens in a new window](#)

[23]

- Region
 - All UK
- Type of course
 - Undergraduate
- Full or part time
 - Full time
- Duration
 - Various
- Contact details
 - 020 7713 0214
 - More information regarding the course webpage
<https://careers.ibms.org/students/accredited-degree-courses/undergraduate-uk-cou...> [23]
- Admissions address
 - 12 Coldbath Square
 - London
 - EC1R 5HL
- Course webpage (All course links open in new window)
 - More information regarding the course webpage (link opens in new window)
<https://careers.ibms.org/students/accredited-degree-courses/undergraduate-uk-cou...> [23]

We do not hold information on courses in biomedical science - for details of these, please contact the Institute of Biomedical Science [\[23\]](#) website.

Accredited **BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science** degrees in pathology sciences (specifically those in blood sciences, cellular sciences and infection sciences) lead to eligibility to apply for professional registration with the Health and Care Professions Council ([HCPC](#) [13]) as a biomedical scientist. Use this coursefinder to search for universities approved to run these degree programmes.

Check with each university to ensure that their course leads to [HCPC](#) [13] registration as a biomedical scientist.

Help us improve your experience of our website

Register your interest in research to improve our website.

Let's go ^[24]

Other roles that may interest you

- Blood sciences ^[25]
- Cellular sciences ^[26]
- Infection sciences ^[27]
- Virology (healthcare scientist) ^[28]

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/biomedical-science>

Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/life-sciences/infection-sciences>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/life-sciences/blood-sciences>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/life-sciences/cellular-sciences>
- [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/life-sciences/biomedical-science/real-life-story-saghar-missaghian-cully-0>
- [5] <http://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/>
- [6] <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>
- [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/life-sciences>
- [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pathology>
- [9] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/nursing>
- [10] <http://www.hcpc-uk.org/>
- [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#PTP>
- [12] <http://www.ibms.org/go/qualifications>
- [13] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#HCPC>
- [14] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/clinical-support-staff/healthcare-science-assistant-and-associate>
- [15] <http://www.ibms.org>
- [16] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#AfC>
- [17] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916735371>
- [18] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916712776>
- [19] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916732012>
- [20] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916734028>
- [21] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916739148>
- [22] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916734054>
- [23] <https://careers.ibms.org/students/accredited-degree-courses/undergraduate-uk-courses/>
- [24] <https://bit.ly/36kefZD>
- [25] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/blood-sciences>
- [26] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/cellular-sciences>
- [27] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/infection-sciences>
- [28] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/healthcare-science/roles-healthcare-science/life-sciences/virology-healthcare-scientist>