

The life sciences sector is growing fast and is helping to transform the way we live our lives. It's about scientific discovery and advanced technology which means there are some exciting and rewarding roles to be had.

20,000 apprenticeships

in the science sector
by 2020

Source: Industrial Strategy: Life Sciences Sector, Gov.UK

Government is providing
£406m to support maths,
digital and technical
education

Future trends

New discoveries and technologies mean that we are able to diagnose illnesses earlier and more accurately and can create new treatments and support for those who need it.

Genomics, robotics, digital diagnostics and artificial intelligence (AI) will create new industries and new jobs; bioinformatics - connecting computing, biology and medicine - is a fast-growing area in research and development.

Highly skilled people will also be needed to work in food and energy security and intellectual property.

Skills and qualities

Some employers report that they struggle to find candidates with the right people or personal skills. In life sciences, employers are particularly looking for::

- Analytical skills
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving
- Advanced ICT and digital skills
- Communication
- Maths
- Team working
- Presentation skills
- Innovation

What could you earn?



These are the average salaries you might expect to earn in construction*. Salaries are likely to be lower for new starters and higher for experienced workers.

- Lab technician £20,450
- Science professional £28,750
- Environmental health professionals £36,050
- Biological scientist £38,150
- Design & development engineer £40,100
- Research professional £41,350
- Pharmacist £42,250

*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017 median salary rounded to nearest £50

The local picture

In Greater Birmingham we are already tackling big issues such as cancer, dementia, trauma, rare diseases and antimicrobial resistance. We have world-class facilities for the life sciences sector including:

- The Institute of Translational Medicine
- The University of Birmingham's College of Medical and Dental Sciences (the second largest medical school in the country)
- The largest NIHR Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility in the UK
- Centre for Rare Diseases
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB), home to the largest solid organ transplantation programme in Europe and the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine.

A new £353 million hospital – the Midland Metropolitan Hospital - will open in 2019 creating a range of new jobs across healthcare and life sciences.

22,000 people employed in life sciences across the West Midlands¹

600 medical technology companies in Greater Birmingham

Business Register of Employment Survey

Local employers

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB) | **Binding Site** | Abingdon Health | **Celentyx** | Diagnostic World | **Gifford Bioscience** | NIHR Clinical Research Network | **Linear Diagnostics** | Birmingham Dental Hospital | **Kaido Group** | University of Birmingham | **IMI Precision Engineering** | Clinigen

Getting in



Many of the jobs found in life sciences are for those with higher level skills but not all roles require degrees or post-graduate degrees.

The development of higher-level apprenticeships in life sciences means there is an alternative route other than university into technician roles. However, for any role in this sector continuing with a STEM qualification (science, technology, engineering and maths) will open up more doors.

The life sciences industry is developing apprenticeship standards in more subjects where there will be demand for skills in the future such as bioinformatics and cheminformatics.

Finding out more

www.rsb.org.uk

www.rsc.org/careers/future

www.futuremorph.org

www.microbiologysociety.org/careers.html



Types of apprenticeships include:



healthcare science assistant, healthcare scientist, laboratory assistant, laboratory scientist, metrology technician. More are in development.