

# N5 LABORATORY SCIENCE



## COURSE DESCRIPTION

National 5 Skills for Work: Laboratory Science is an introductory qualification. The course provides a broad experiential introduction to laboratory science. Learners will explore a variety of industries and services, and career opportunities, in science laboratories locally, nationally, and globally.

It is an ideal course for pupils who have gained a National 4 or N5 Units in Chemistry and are looking to find out how to apply their skills and knowledge in the workplace. It is also suitable for direct entry for any pupil who has gained a National 4 or 5 in any Science and would prefer to continue with Science but not to move on to Higher level.

They will develop the basic practical skills and knowledge needed for working in a laboratory: measuring, weighing and preparing compounds and solutions; and health and safety requirements as well as practical skills in microbiology, measuring radioactivity, chemical handling and laboratory instrumentation.

Throughout all units, the course emphasises the employability skills and attitudes valued by employers which will help to prepare learners for the workplace. Learners will review their own employability skills, and will seek feedback from others on their strengths and weaknesses.

Laboratory technicians work in different sorts of labs. They work with scientists, to carry out experiments and record results. Animal technicians also work in laboratories, caring for animals used in research and, when qualified, helping with experiments.

Laboratory Science offers good opportunities for those who enjoy:

- learning practical and technical skills
- working as part of a team
- paying attention to detail
- being methodical
- observing and recording

## AREAS OF STUDY/COURSE STRUCTURE

The Skills for Work Course in Laboratory Science consists of four mandatory units:

- Careers using Laboratory Science
- Working in a Laboratory
- Practical Skills
- Practical Investigation

## RECOMMENDED ENTRY

Candidates would normally be expected to have achieved a National 4 in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

## ASSESSMENT

There is no exam for this course. Assessment will be based on an investigation, an open book assessment and your reviews of your employability skills.

## FURTHER/HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

- A Life Science Modern Apprenticeship leading to a Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) at SCQF Levels 5 or 6.
- A one year full time National Certificate or National Qualification in Applied Sciences at a local college of further education.

## FUTURE CAREERS

- Animal technician
- Botanist
- Food scientist
- Forensic scientist
- Pharmacologist
- Colour technologist
- Textile technologist
- Cardiac physiologist
- Laboratory technician