



## **CAREER OF THE WEEK: Biomedical Scientist**

### **What does a biomedical scientist do?**

Biomedical scientists carry out a range of laboratory and scientific tests to support the diagnosis and treatment of disease. They investigate a range of medical conditions, including cancer, diabetes, blood disorders, meningitis, hepatitis and AIDS. They 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. They work with computers, sophisticated automated equipment, microscopes and other hi-tech laboratory equipment. The work is highly varied, practical and analytical. Biomedical scientists usually specialise in one of four areas – infection sciences, blood sciences, cell sciences, or genetics and molecular pathology. They work closely with doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. Most biomedical scientists work in the NHS. Some work for government bodies/departments, in the armed forces, for a university or for a pharmaceutical manufacturing company.

### **What can I expect to earn as a biomedical scientist?**

If you work in the NHS you'll typically start at band 5 of the [Agenda for Change](#) pay system (£31,049 to £37,796). As you gain experience, this could rise to band 6 (£38,682 to £46,580) and could progress as high as band 9 (£109,179 to £125,637).

### **What subjects should I study to become a biomedical scientist?**

Whichever route you choose to become a biomedical scientist you will need the equivalent of A' Level's including at least one science (biology/chemistry).

### **How can I start my career as a biomedical scientist?**

There are several entry routes to become a biomedical scientist in the NHS:

- through the [NHS Practitioner Training Programme](#) where you will complete an accredited integrated BSc degree in Healthcare Science.
- a biomedical science degree accredited [by the Institute of Biomedical Science \(IBMS\)](#) and approved by the [Health and Care Professions Council](#)
- by gaining employment with the NHS as a trainee biomedical scientist.

If you're interested in becoming a biomedical scientist in the armed forces, the [Army](#), [Royal Navy](#) and the [Royal Air Force](#) all offer degree sponsorship.

You could start as a [healthcare science assistant or associate](#) and with experience and further training (and, provided you have the academic ability) you could apply for the NHS Practitioner Training programme and take a BSc (Hons) degree in Healthcare Science.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a biomedical scientist, visit our partner website [www.logonmoveon.co.uk](http://www.logonmoveon.co.uk)

### **Other useful websites to find out more about a career as a biomedical scientist:**

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

The Institute of Biomedical Science - <https://www.ibms.org/education/>

Working in biomedical science <https://www.ibms.org/resources/discover-biomedical-science/working-in-biomedical-science/>

