

Medical Laboratory Science



Medical laboratory scientists are specialised health professionals who provide vital information about a patient's state of health. Their input is vital to the diagnosis of disease and in monitoring its treatment.

INDUSTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To become a medical laboratory scientist, you need a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science and to register with the New Zealand Medical Laboratory Science board. This requires a valid qualification plus six months of work experience in a medical laboratory.

HOW MUCH COULD I EARN AFTER MY DEGREE?

Registered medical laboratory scientists who are recent graduates usually earn between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year. Medical laboratory scientists who have more than five years' experience can expect to earn between \$50,000 and \$80,000 a year. Senior medical laboratory scientists in supervisory or leadership roles may earn more than this.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF GETTING A JOB?

The chances of getting a job as a medical laboratory scientist are good, because more lab tests are having to be processed and analysed. With new discoveries and advances in medical services, the public expects more from health care providers, so there is a greater demand for 24-hour laboratory services, faster testing of samples and constant monitoring of patients.

WHAT TYPE OF EMPLOYERS CAN I WORK FOR?

About 80% of medical laboratory scientists work for district health boards. However, you can also work for:

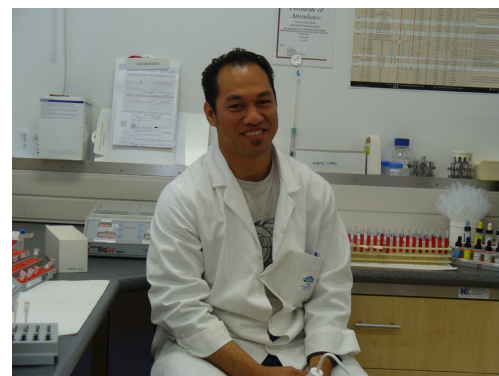
- Private diagnostic labs or hospitals
- Medical equipment companies, in sales and marketing
- Chemical and pharmaceutical companies, in research and development

CAREER PROGRESSION

Medical laboratory scientists can progress into different areas of responsibility within a laboratory, such as staff and departmental management. With further postgraduate study they may also move into other areas of the biological sciences including teaching, animal health, the food industry, or working for commercial science companies.

Information Source: www.careers.govt.nz

Fia works in a multi-disciplinary laboratory at Masterton Hospital, Wairarapa, where staff are rotated around various roles. "The wide range of skills covered has prepared me for almost everything. AUT staff were very helpful, always encouraging you to work hard, and they always had time to help you. Plus the small classes and friendly classmates helped. The degree opened up lots of employment opportunities and I found it easy to get a job. I will be able to work around the world with this qualification."



FIA SAUMAMAQ
AUT UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

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