



Pearson

Purpose Statement

Name of regulated qualification	
QN: 603/0461/3	Title: Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Diploma in Laboratory Science (360 GLH)

What is Laboratory Science?

The science sector is one of the largest and most diverse sectors in the UK, and includes sciences such as biomedical, pharmaceutical, food, forensic, dental, health, physical and chemical. There are approximately 5.8 million people employed in science-related occupations in the UK. This equates to approximately 20 per cent of the workforce. Most science organisations depend on the work that takes place in their laboratories, whether that is research and development or production and manufacture, and the role of those who work in those laboratories is vital.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for you if you want to start a career in laboratory science. It is designed for post-16 students and can be taken as part of a wider study programme. It is an ideal qualification if you are intending to progress to employment in a science-related laboratory directly or to a laboratory science apprenticeship.

What does the qualification cover?

The qualification has been developed in consultation with employers within the laboratory science sector to ensure it enables you to learn the skills and behaviours that give you the best opportunity to be successful in applying for work.

All the content of the qualification is mandatory and relates directly to the skills, knowledge and behaviours expected by employers in the science laboratory sector. The areas you cover include:

- laboratory health and safety
- working in a science laboratory
- assisting the work of a laboratory

- preparing and clearing down a laboratory
- handling scientific data
- application of laboratory techniques.

You will also enhance your broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be invaluable in supporting progression in other areas. In addition, you will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication, research and teamwork.

As part of your course, you will be required to engage with sector employers, where opportunities will be given for you to develop practical skills in preparation for employment.

What could this qualification lead to?

Achieving this qualification will give you an advantage when applying for a job in a laboratory. The types of jobs you will be ready for include:

- health science laboratory assistant
- pharmaceutical laboratory assistant
- food science laboratory assistant.

When studied as part of a full study programme, typically alongside maths or English, this qualification also gives you a sound basis to progress further within the science sector in a wide range of industries to an apprenticeship, for example as a dental laboratory assistant, healthcare science assistant, or laboratory technician; or to a level 3 qualification such as a Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Pharmaceutical Science or Dental Technology.

Who supports this qualification?

This qualification is supported by the following employers:

- BioPlus Tech Ltd
- Hexpol Compounding
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
- King's College University of London
- Mary Lyon Centre
- Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Stirling Lloyd
- The Christie Pathology Partnership
- The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- The University of Manchester
- Weston Area Health NHS Trust

Further information

Further information about the qualification can also be accessed at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-technicals/laboratory-science.html>