



# Science and Laboratory Work

Local Information Sheet No. 14

## The Work

- Are you interested in Science?
- Do you enjoy understanding how and why things happen?
- Have you considered science or laboratory work?

The work generally involves using modern scientific equipment, measuring and analysing materials and samples. There are many types of scientists (e.g. marine process/product development), as well as research scientists (life sciences, medical or physical sciences). Areas covered include manufacturing; product and process development; research and development; teaching; writing and editing (to name a few). Job opportunities can be found working in all manner of organisations, including biotechnology research organisations; breweries; environmental organisations; food and drink manufacturers; government departments and agencies; hospital laboratories; museums; petrochemical companies; pharmaceutical companies; research councils; universities and schools. Although there are some jobs available for young people with good GCSE, the majority of jobs in scientific work are only open to those who have qualifications at an advanced level.

## What's Happening?

The science sector in the UK is in a strong position - UK scientists receive around 10% of internationally recognised scientific prizes every year! There are opportunities in research and development (R&D), biotechnology, and environmental science, though fewer opportunities are now available in manufacturing areas such as food and drink. Jobs are becoming available as new areas are explored (for example climate science; drug discovery and the Human Genome Project). Future employees need to be highly skilled. Graduates in the physical sciences are in increasing demand and will need to be adaptable, multi-skilled and willing to travel abroad. Though a funding shortfall was announced in December 2007, the government has increased public funding for research and development over the past decade, and announced further increases for the period 2008-2011. Opportunities for 16 year olds are very limited. See Work Matters for more labour market information (see page four - Easy ways to get useful information).

## Possible Job Titles

- |                                    |                              |                       |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Biochemist</b>                  | <b>Geological Technician</b> | <b>Pharmacologist</b> |
| <b>Biologist</b>                   | <b>Geoscientist</b>          | <b>Physicist</b>      |
| <b>Chemist</b>                     | <b>Laboratory Technician</b> | <b>Statistician</b>   |
| <b>Food Scientist/Technologist</b> | <b>Meteorologist</b>         | <b>Toxicologist</b>   |
| <b>Forensic Scientist</b>          | <b>Microbiologist</b>        |                       |

For information about these jobs see the Science section of the Connexions library.

## Your Options at 16 and 17

- **Further education at school or college** – continue to study, full or part-time, for a career or keep your future options open and simply continue to improve your qualifications.
- **Apprenticeships** (Level 2)/Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3) – learn new skills with an employer, gain qualifications and get some real work experience. You will receive a wage, or, if you are eligible, an Education Maintenance Allowance of up to £30 a week.
- **Job** – regular, paid work that, with training, can lead to recognised qualifications.
- **e2e** (Entry to Employment) & **Pre-e2e** – programmes to help you prepare for a job, an Apprenticeship or further education.

For details of all these options speak to your Connexions personal adviser or see page four – Easy ways to get useful information.

## Section 1

### Further education: what's available locally and how to apply.

- This sheet lists full-time vocational courses. Other courses and ways of learning may be available.
- **Futures4Me** – explore all post-16 learning and training opportunities available in the West of England.
- Contact colleges/sixth form colleges for information and an application form. They all have websites.
- Go to open evenings and information events. See page four – Easy ways to get useful information.
- Ask colleges/sixth form colleges how well previous students have done on their courses.
- Use your school's Connexions Information Centre for information about local colleges and sixth forms.
- Higher education, Apprenticeships, a job with training, self-employment or time out to travel or do voluntary work are all options after college/sixth form college.
- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a weekly payment to help with costs if you go into the sixth form, college or go into training. Other financial support exists to help with travel, specialist courses, books and equipment and childcare. Terms and conditions apply to all. For more information - <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

#### CITY OF BATH COLLEGE

Avon Street, Bath BA1 1UP

Tel: 01225 312191

Website: [www.citybathcoll.ac.uk](http://www.citybathcoll.ac.uk)

#### Applied Science – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 5 GCSEs grade C or above including Double Science and Maths. This course is for learners with an interest in biomedical science, biochemistry, radiography, pharmacy and nursing and are thinking about higher education or gaining employment in the industry.

#### CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE – SOUNDWELL CENTRE

St Stephens Road, Soundwell, Bristol BS16 4RL

Tel: 0117 312 5000

Website: [www.cityofbristol.ac.uk](http://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk)

#### Applied Science – BTEC First Diploma

(1 year). Entry requirements are 2 GCSEs grade C or 4 GCSEs grade D. You will also be asked to attend an interview. This BTEC First Diploma will provide you with the opportunity to gain a sound knowledge and understanding of science in an applied setting. This is achieved through both theoretical and practical sessions. Within your programme of study, you will also have the opportunity to upgrade some previously obtained GCSEs or to undertake new ones.

#### Applied Science (Forensic Science) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above, including Maths and Science, or equivalent. A personal interview will also be required. This course will provide you with the opportunity to gain a sound knowledge and understanding of Forensic Science in an applied setting. This is achieved through both theoretical and practical sessions.

#### Applied Science (Medical Science) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are 4 GCSEs grade C or above, including Maths and Science, or equivalent. A personal interview will also be required. The course will provide you with the opportunity to gain a sound knowledge and understanding of a wide range of medical science theory and practice in an applied way.

#### KEYNSHAM BUSINESS AND SECRETARIAL CENTRE

St Francis Road, Keynsham BS31 2DY

Tel: 0117 986 1662

Website: [www.nortcoll.ac.uk](http://www.nortcoll.ac.uk)

#### Forensic Science – National Certificate (Edexcel)

(2 years). Please contact the college for entry requirements. This course introduces students to a variety of techniques and processes including Criminology, Forensic Evidence collection and Forensic Photography. During the first year students will concentrate on the core modules relating to the Science industry. The second year encourages further development and includes modules in Photography, Forensic Evidence Collection, Criminology.

**WESTON COLLEGE**  
 Knightstone Road  
 Weston-super-Mare BS23 2AL  
 Tel: 01934 411411  
 Website: [www.weston.ac.uk](http://www.weston.ac.uk)

#### Applied Science (Forensics) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 Years). Entry requirements are at least 5 GCSEs in the A - C range to include Mathematics, English Language and Science.

#### What's available outside the area?

**WILTSHIRE COLLEGE TROWBRIDGE**  
 College Road, Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 0ES  
 Tel: 01225 766241  
 Website: [www.wiltshire.ac.uk](http://www.wiltshire.ac.uk)

#### Science (Health Studies) – BTEC National Diploma

(2 years). Entry requirements are minimum of 4 GCSEs grade C or above to include English, Maths and Science or a Distinction in one of the following qualifications at level 2, BTEC First Diploma in Health and Social Care; CACHE Certificate in Childcare and Education. In your first year you will study human anatomy and physiology, nutrition, research methods, communication and supportive skills, equality, diversity and rights.

## Section 2

### Year 12 (Sixth Form)

- Choose from a wide range of courses including AS/A2 Levels, GCSEs, Diplomas, National Diplomas, NVQs and other work related courses.
- Contact sixth forms for information and an application form. They all have websites.
- Go to open evenings and information events. See page four – Easy ways to get useful information.
- Ask sixth forms how well previous students have done on their courses.
- Use your school's Connexions Information Centre for information about local sixth forms.
- Additional further education, higher education, Apprenticeships, a job with training, self-employment or time out to travel or do voluntary work are all options after the sixth form.
- Educational Maintenance Allowance is a weekly payment to help you continue to learn or train. EMA is worth up to £30 a week. Other financial support exists to help with travel, specialist courses, books and equipment and childcare. Terms and conditions apply to all. For more information – <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>

## Section 3

### Apprenticeships and Jobs

Both of these options allow you to learn new skills with an employer and get some real work experience – but only an Apprenticeship will guarantee you training and the chance to gain qualifications. You will receive a wage, or, if you are eligible, an Education Maintenance Allowance of up to £30 a week. See page four – Easy ways to get useful information.

### Local Organisations

For trainee laboratory technician or laboratory assistants (unqualified) posts try the following:

- **Bath Spa University**, Human Resources, Newton Park, Newton St Loe, Bath BA2 9BN. Direct Telephone: 01225 876338. Email: [hrcontact@bathspa.ac.uk](mailto:hrcontact@bathspa.ac.uk)  
[www.bathspa.ac.uk](http://www.bathspa.ac.uk) (Do not send speculative applications/CVs - on the website click on Job Vacancies).
- **Bath University**, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY. Tel: 01225 388388. Email: [HR@bath.ac.uk](mailto:HR@bath.ac.uk)  
[www.bath.ac.uk](http://www.bath.ac.uk) (click on Jobs Vacancies)

- **University of Bristol**, Senate House, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1TH. Tel: 0117 928 9000.  
[www.bristol.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/jobs) (click on Current Vacancies)

## NHS Trusts

- **North Bristol NHS Trust**, Trust Headquarters, Beckspool Road, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1JE.  
Email [employment.services@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:employment.services@nbt.nhs.uk) [www.nbt.nhs.uk](http://www.nbt.nhs.uk) (click on Work for Us)
- **Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust**, The Recruitment Department, Bath & Wessex House, First Floor, Royal United Hospital NHS Trust, Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG.  
Tel: 01225 821142 Email: [recruitment@ruh.nhs.uk](mailto:recruitment@ruh.nhs.uk) [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk) (click on Working for us)
- **University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust**, Trust Headquarters, Marlborough Street, Bristol BS1 3NU. Recruitment office - Tel: 0117 928 4028 or e-mail [jobs@UHBristol.nhs.uk](mailto:jobs@UHBristol.nhs.uk) (If you have any queries). [www.ubht.nhs.uk](http://www.ubht.nhs.uk) (click on Working at the Trust)
- **Weston Area Health NHS Trust**, Weston General Hospital, Grange Road, Uphill, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 4TQ.  
Call 01934 647125 for medical recruitment. Email: [medicalvacancies3@waht.swest.nhs.uk](mailto:medicalvacancies3@waht.swest.nhs.uk)  
call 01934 647123 for general recruitment enquiries. Email [vacancies3@waht.swest.nhs.uk](mailto:vacancies3@waht.swest.nhs.uk)  
[www.waht.nhs.uk](http://www.waht.nhs.uk) (click on Working at Weston).

## For more on Apprenticeships

- [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) – visit the National Apprenticeship website for information including the National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service (scroll down and click on the ‘Apprenticeship Vacancies’ link). This service lets you search for Apprenticeship vacancies in a variety of ways, such as by occupational area, provider or by postcode.
- **08000 150 600** – Call the National Apprenticeship Hotline for help and advice.
- If you are still not sure and need help, please contact careers staff in your school/college or your local Connexions West of England Centre (addresses at end of this leaflet).

## Time Off for study or training

- The right to Time Off for Study or training is designed to help you if you are aged 16-17, got few if any qualifications at school, and are now employed in a job which offers little or no training.
- For more information – [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com) – look under work schemes>time off for study and training.

## Easy ways to get useful information

- [www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk) – information for 13-19 year olds; vacancies; local support agencies; education & training database; publication downloads.
- <http://options.connexionswest.org.uk> – Your Way Forward - Options @ 16 and 17. Post-16 learning, training and work options; qualifications; sources of finance; useful websites.
- <http://workmatters.connexionswest.org.uk> – Information about working in the local area; how much people earn; number of people employed; types of jobs; useful websites.
- **Futures4Me** – explore all post-16 learning and training opportunities available in the West of England.

Connexions West of England Centres are open Monday – Friday. Contact direct for opening hours.

Bristol  
4 Colston Avenue  
Bristol BS1 4ST  
Tel: 0117 987 3700  
Fax: 0117 987 3701  
Minicom: 0117 907 4514

Bath & North East Somerset  
28 Southgate  
Bath BA1 1TP  
Tel: 01225 461 501  
Fax: 01225 465 619

South Gloucestershire  
21-23 High Street  
Kingswood  
Bristol BS15 4AA  
Tel: 0117 961 2760  
Fax: 0117 960 7838

South Gloucestershire  
28 Gloucester Rd North  
Filton  
Bristol BS7 0SJ  
Tel: 0117 969 8101  
Fax: 0117 931 2978

North Somerset  
45 Boulevard  
Weston-super-Mare  
BS23 1PG  
Tel: 01934 644443  
Fax: 01934 644409

[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)  
[enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk)

Connexions Direct (confidential information, advice and support for young people)  
Tel: 080 800 13 2 19. Text: 07766 4 13 2 19. [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)

The information in this leaflet was correct at the time of writing. Please check details - information dates quickly.

Produced by Red Bridge Solutions Ltd - [enquiries@redbridgesolutions.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@redbridgesolutions.co.uk)