

Biomedical Support Worker

A biomedical support worker provides support to biomedical scientists by carrying out essential tasks within the laboratory.

The Work

You may work in one of four areas:

Infection Science

- medical microbiology – the study of micro-organisms
- virology – the study of viruses.

Blood Sciences

- blood transfusion science
- clinical chemistry – the study of body fluids and the adverse effects of chemicals on the body
- immunology – the study of the immune system
- haematology – the study of blood.

Cellular Sciences

- cytology – the study of cells
- histopathology – the study of human tissue
- reproductive science.

Gene Science

- genetics
- molecular pathology.

You could be:

- preparing samples for analysis
- making up slides to look at under a microscope
- updating written and electronic records
- maintaining stock levels
- disposing of tissue samples
- maintaining the laboratory equipment
- keeping the laboratory clean and safe
- ensuring safe working practises are maintained.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual pay rates may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Under NHS Agenda for Change, biomedical support workers start on Band 2, £25,694 to £27,900 a year. With experience your salary would rise to Band 3, £28,011 to £30,230 a year. The current pay scales are from April 2025.

Conditions

- You would spend most of your time working in a hospital laboratory.
- Hours would normally be regular but you may have to do shifts.
- You might work close to infectious viruses or bacteria but would be protected against them.
- You would have to wear protective clothing, such as a white coat, a mask and gloves.

Getting In

- A good general education is useful including English and Maths.
- You can enter through a Modern Apprenticeship in Life Sciences and Related Science at SCQF Level 6.
- You may need to sit an entrance test.
- Previous experience in a paid or voluntary role in a laboratory setting would be an advantage.
- You will require a satisfactory criminal record check from Disclosure Scotland to show that you are suitable for this type of work. Contact [Disclosure Scotland](http://Disclosure.Scotland) for details on the type you would need.

What Does It Take

You need:

- excellent accuracy and attention to detail
- good time management skills
- the ability to prioritise your workload
- to be able to work to deadlines
- excellent communication skills
- to be able to work as a team.

Training

- You will be encouraged to continue to do on the job training to keep up to date with new technology and developments.
- You may wish to complete additional training such as HNC Applied Sciences or Biosciences (SCQF Level 7).

Getting On

- As a biomedical support worker you can join the [Institute of Biomedical Science \(IBMS\)](http://Institute.of.Biomedical.Science.(IBMS)).

- You could go on to be an associate practitioner in life sciences by completing further training such as HND Applied Biological Sciences (SCQF Level 8) or IBMS Certificate of Achievement Part 2.

Contacts

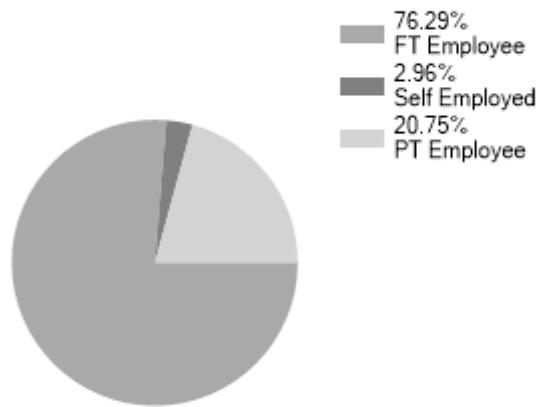
NHS Scotland Careers

Website: www.careers.nhs.scot

Website (2): jobs.scot.nhs.uk

Statistics

Employment Status UK %

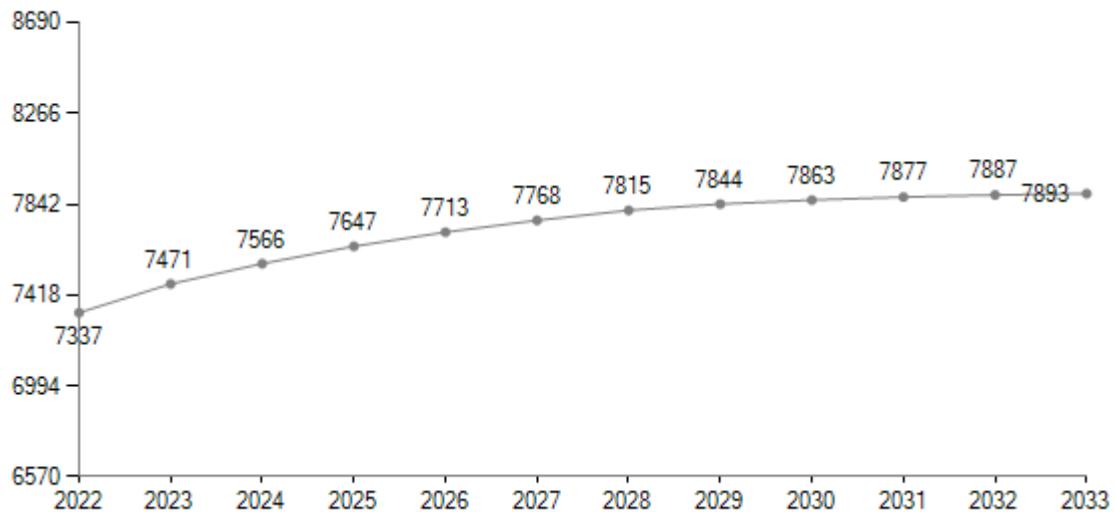


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)