Career options: Medical Laboratory Science

Medical Laboratory Scientists work in the diagnostics industry identifying the molecular and cellular changes which underpin disease.

As a medical scientist in pathology, you will be able to work in

- hospital laboratories
- private pathology laboratories
- state health laboratories
- universities
- In larger hospitals and private laboratories

You will also have the opportunity to specialise in professional disciplines including

- histopathology
- microbiology
- cytology
- blood transfusion
- immunology
- haematology
- clinical biochemistry
- virology

In addition to knowledge and skills directly related to your program of study, you will also develop a range of other skills (e.g. teamwork, analytical, communication) through academic study, employment, voluntary work, sporting activities and life experience. Recognising the value employers place on these skills is an important factor in your graduate job search.

Vacancies on-line

Useful sites include:

Australia

- AusBiotech directory of recruitment agencies
- Australian Defence Force Recruiting
- Australian Public Service recruitment
- Careers at CSIRO
- CareerOne
- ChemSkill
- **Graduate Opportunities** (Specialist graduate recruiter in government & corporate sectors)
- **Health & Community Jobs (HACjobs)**
- **Indeed medical laboratory science vacancies**
- **Kelly Scientific Resources**
- **My Career science vacancies**
- **New South Wales Government jobs**
- **Pharmaceutical Jobs**
- **Queensland Government vacancies**
- **Research Jobs**
- **Science People**
- **Seek Campus** (specialist Australian graduate recruiter)
- **TechStaff**
- **Unijobs** (Vacancies in Australian Universities)
- **Careerjet** employment search engine

### International

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### Targeting potential employers

Many work opportunities are not advertised. It is common practice for jobseekers to search out these opportunities. When approaching potential employers, conducting research to identify links between your selling points (your skills, experience, interests and
qualifications) and an employer’s needs, increases your chances of success. Research will also reduce the number of approaches you need to make, saving you time in the end. Developing and using your personal and professional networks is also a valuable tool in finding these ‘hidden’ opportunities.

- Australian Government departments
- Australian Universities
- Biotechnology companies in Australia (Ausbiotech directory)
- Federal & state health departments & agencies in Australia
- Government forensic service providers in Australia
- Medical and health research organisations in Australia
- Pathology practices in Australia
- International health organisations
- Private hospitals in Australia
- Public hospitals in Australia
- Queensland biotechnology directory
- Queensland Government Departments
- Scientific testing facilities and labs

Employment prospects and starting salaries

Grad Jobs and Dollars provides information on employment rates and median starting salaries by field of study, for Australian university graduates surveyed four months after graduation. Information on occupations Australia-wide, such as the size of the workforce, employment prospects and average weekly earnings is available from JobOutlook.

Professional associations

Joining a professional association is a great way to meet people in your field, who can assist you to explore your career options and potentially find employment opportunities. These associations exist in every field of employment and hold regular professional development and networking events. Students are welcome to join, and membership and can cost as little as $60 per year.

- Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists & Managers (APESMA)
- Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists
- Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law
- Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine
- Australasian Pharmaceutical Science Association
- Australasian Society for Ecotoxicology
- Australasian Society for General Relativity & Gravitation
- Australasian Society for Human Biology
- Australasian Society of Immunology
- Australasian Society of Clinical & Experimental Pharmacologists & Toxicologists
- Australian Society of Plant Scientists
- Australia & New Zealand Society for Cell & Development Biology
- Australian & New Zealand Industrial & Applied Mathematics Division
- Australian & New Zealand Society of Respiratory Science
- Australian Association for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Australian Association for the History, Philosophy & Social Studies of Science
- Australian Health Promotion Association
- Australian Institute of Food Science & Technology
- Australian Institute of Medical Scientists
- Australian Institute of Physics
- Australian Marine Sciences Association
- Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute
- Australian Mathematical Society
- Australian Meteorological & Oceanographic Association
- Australian Optical Society
- Australian Pattern Recognition Society
- Australian Physiological Society
- Australian Society for Microbiology
- Australian Society for Biophysics
- Australian Society for Fish Biology
- Australian Society for Medical Research
- Australian Society of Soil Science
- Australian Science Communicators
- Australian Water Association
- Epigenetics Society
- Genetics Society of Australasia
- Haematology Society of Australia & New Zealand
- Human Genetics Society of Australasia
- Health Informatics Society of Australia
- Institute of Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys of Australia
- Marine Education Society of Australia
- Modelling & Simulation Society of Australia & New Zealand
- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- Plant Science Australia
- Royal Australian Chemical Institute
- Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators
- Society for Australian Systematic Biologists
- Society for Conservation Biology
- Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia
- Statistical Society of Australia
- Telecommunications Society of Australia
- Young Statisticians
- Advance (global network of Australians and alumni abroad)

Other career-related links

- Careers in clinical science
- Careers in clinical microbiology
- Careers in clinical physiology
- A career as a patent attorney
Sample graduate job advertisements

BHP Billiton is the world’s largest diversified resources company with over 41,000 employees working in more than 100 operations in 25 countries and 5 continents. We understand that recruiting, developing and retaining talented graduates is the key to success because a great business needs great people.

Our exciting two-year Foundations for Graduates Program will assist you in the transition from study to work as you experience many facets of the BHP Billiton business and gain a long-term perspective of your career and the places it will take you. The Program has been developed specifically for the needs of BHP Billiton Graduates and is unmatched in the resources industry. For the second consecutive year (2008 and 2009), BHP Billiton was awarded the Australian Graduate Recruitment Industry Award for “Best Graduate Development Program.”

In the first year, the Program is mapped against BHP Billiton specific Graduate Competencies focusing on the key skills required to assist you in transitioning into the workplace. Specifically you will be challenged to increase your self-awareness, develop key communication skills, assess your capability to handle difficult situations and to increase your understanding of team dynamics. You will analyse and solve real business issues and develop your decision making and creative thinking skills. You will work in large and small groups across geographical boundaries and time zones.

Applications: Open 1/01/2010

The focus in the second year is on increasing your effectiveness in a business and leadership context and program content is mapped against the BHP Billiton Leadership Attributes. Critical leadership skills such as leading and managing change, negotiating, building relationships and networking are just a few of the elements you will explore and master.

When you complete the BHP Billiton Foundations for Graduates Program, you will be well equipped for an outstanding and influential future in your chosen field. You will have also built a solid community of peers throughout BHP Billiton that you will be able to call upon for ongoing support and advice.

The future is yours.
Disciplines
*Engineering, Science, Mining and Surveying, Business

Eligibility
Australian Citizens and Permanent Residents ONLY (including New Zealand Citizens)

**Stanwell Corporation** is looking for a graduate, or near graduate to be part of its engineering team. Upon appointment, you will enter our Graduate Development Program which will equip you with the support and resources for an accelerated growth into a highly regarded professional chemist. The role will be based at Rockhampton in central Queensland.

With an energy portfolio comprising coal and hydro facilities throughout Queensland, Stanwell trades more than 30% of the State’s electricity requirements. Our vision is to deliver smarter energy for Queensland and a strong return for our shareholders, the Queensland Government. We are focused on providing a safe and equitable work environment where employees find new challenges and satisfying careers.

As part of the Graduate Development program you will:
* Be provided professional development and training opportunities
* Be assigned an coach/expert to provide you regular support and advice;
* Receive support for approved post graduate study.
* Receive a competitive remuneration package.

This is a challenging and exciting role for someone who has the prerequisites listed below:
* Science degree qualifications in chemistry or equivalent that is acceptable for membership of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI).
* Have undertaken as part of their degree some focus in industrial chemistry
* A willingness to work at Stanwell Corporation’s various production sites for various durations of time, which will require the successful applicant to live in the communities adjacent to the production sites.
* An interest in establishing a long-term career within the electricity generation industry
* High level of computer literacy;
* Excellent communication and negotiation skills;
* The ability to be proactive, prioritise tasks and to use own initiative to solve problems.

**Biotest Laboratories P/L** is a leading TGA-licensed, NATA-accredited consulting laboratory providing high level testing services to the food and pharmaceutical industries.

We have a number of permanent positions available for people seeking to develop a career in an exciting and rewarding consulting environment in our modern laboratory.

The successful candidates will receive extensive training in Analytical Chemistry or Microbiology.

Applicants with good communication skills, the ability to work both independently and as a "hands on" team member, and a keen desire to develop a career in Science, should apply.
Applications are encouraged from those who have completed Certificates in Laboratory Studies or who are currently completing studies for a Degree in Science.

The **Department of Innovation** strives as a key priority to encourage the sustainable growth of Australian industries by developing a national innovation system that drives knowledge creation, cutting edge science and research, international competitiveness and greater productivity.

The Department is recruiting approximately 40 graduates from various disciplines for 2010. We don’t mind if you’re just graduating this year or if you graduated some time ago. We value people who have strong skills in communication; teamwork; research and analysis; adaptability; flexibility; initiative; and judgment. If you’ve also got work experience, political awareness, business acumen, knowledge of change management issues or marketing, it’s a bonus!

You will experience a variety of interesting and challenging activities, ranging from supporting small and medium sized Australian enterprises to help them become more innovative, efficient and competitive to contributing to high-level Ministerial meetings. The 10-month graduate development program provides you with:

* Three work placements
* The opportunity to work with other graduates on a major project that tackles real-life industry issues
* Three “off-the-job” training blocks
* A network of Innovation people, including a dedicated “buddy”, who are there to support you and answer your questions
* A Certificate Level IV in Government

Other benefits of the program include:

* Relocation assistance should you be moving from interstate
* Competitive salary of around $47,000 during the program and upon completion, a permanent position with a salary of around $57,000 and the opportunity to gain further promotion through merit-based selection processes (Please refer to our website for current salary rates)
* Flexible working conditions under a competitive Collective Agreement, including health related lifestyle subsidies
* Salary packaging options and generous superannuation
* Ongoing professional development opportunities

We welcome applications from graduates from all disciplines, particularly: economics; commerce; public policy; business; law; science or engineering. Applicants who also have post-graduate qualifications and some work experience are strongly encouraged to apply.

The **Thoracic Oncology Laboratory**'s research focuses upon the genetics involved with lung cancer and other diseases such as emphysema, asthma and interstitial lung disease. They use molecular techniques to molecularly characterise their extensive DNA collection.
Projects also encompass the identification of novel genes that may be involved in lung cancer. They are looking for a Pulmonary Research Scientist and Research Technician to join their molecular biology and cell biology scientific team. Their responsibilities will include tissue collection, PCR amplification, Real Time PCR and RFLP analysis, DNA extractions, mutation and methylation analysis, and participating in other current projects. One-two 12-month research positions (with possibility of extension) are available, studying lung cancer and other lung diseases. One position suits a graduate with technical training (Minimum TAFE qualification in a science field); the other requires a recent science degree (Medical Laboratory Science, Applied Science and Science).

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Careers and Employment Service, Griffith University