

Laboratory/Research



In a research environment, teams of scientists and engineers work to develop new products and processes that will provide benefit to society, and improve the efficiency and profitability of a business. Much of this work takes place in the laboratory, where experiments are undertaken to investigate new products, new ways to make existing products, and also provide support services such as analysis and quality control.

To work successfully in a laboratory, you will need to have a strong background in science, together with an interest in finding out how things work, and how to improve them. You will need to be able to work with different people, working in different areas, such as chemists, analysts, and engineers. You will need to be able to learn more about the science involved, and will work towards a BTEC science qualification at college, as well as a laboratory NVQ at work, as part of your apprenticeship.

You may find yourself working in an analytical laboratory, using advanced techniques to discover more about materials, or in a research laboratory, operating experimental apparatus. You will be supported by technical staff and by NVQ assessors, who will help you to complete your apprenticeship successfully. If you are successful in gaining a permanent position, you will have the opportunity to develop further in a career in science.