



Level 3 Laboratory Technician Standard (Lab Tech)

Our core values:

Educate, Inspire, Achieve

Our vision is to bring education and industry together for a brighter, safer world and to inspire the next generation of scientists. We map our technical inputs to industry requirements and provide the highest quality of education possible to all our learners, supporting and enabling all of them to achieve their maximum potential. We are proud of our success rates which are above national average.

We employ experts in their field to deliver our scientific training, all our vocational skills coaches and lecturers have industrial experience and excellent teaching credentials. We also have in-house experience of helping our customers set up and run exemplar award winning apprenticeship programmes.

Who we are

We are the country's leading scientific training provider and are proud to work with some of the most innovative scientific organisations in the UK. CSR Group has been delivering quality laboratory based scientific Apprenticeships since it was founded in 2006. We are listed on the RoATP (Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers), regulated by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education and monitored by Ofsted.

Some of our customers include:

- ▶ The National Physical Laboratory
- ▶ The University of Oxford
- ▶ The University of Cambridge
- ▶ The NHS
- ▶ LGC
- ▶ Thames Water
- ▶ Abcam
- ▶ The Binding Site

“The quality of training I receive from CSR is of a high standard and the lecturers are friendly and approachable.”

Bushra Nawaz, Laboratory Technician Apprentice at The BioEscalator at the University of Oxford.

About the Level 3 Laboratory Technician Apprenticeship

Laboratory Technicians work in a wide range of organisations, including pharmaceutical, testing, biotechnology, formulated products, nuclear, utilities, education and analytical science services.

Apprentices must be in employment for the duration of the Apprenticeship. The apprentice must have access to work which provides them with the opportunities to develop, practice and evidence the knowledge and skills to meet the Standard.

A lab technician apprentice will learn:

- ▶ To work safely in a lab environment and to follow quality procedures.
- ▶ Regulatory requirements of the industry and lab.
- ▶ Technical skills to fulfil their role.
- ▶ How to produce, analyse and interpret data including the application of statistical techniques.
- ▶ To communicate scientific information effectively.
- ▶ To use appropriate scientific methods to identify the causes of problems and produce solutions.

Apprentices will complete a Level 3 or 4 science qualification which is recognised for professional registration as RSciTech.

Example qualifications are:

- ▶ BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science
- ▶ BTEC Level 4 HNC in Applied Chemistry or Biology

Entry requirements

Demonstrating a passion for Science is key. Typically, 5 GCSE's at grade C/4 or above in Maths, English and Science is desirable.

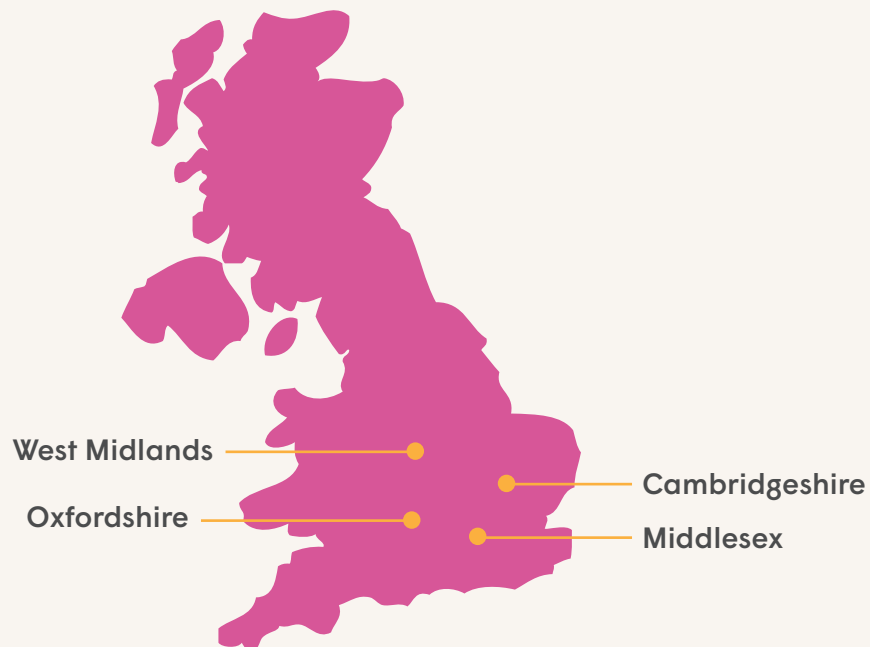


Delivery of the Apprenticeship

We work with the employer to develop a training plan that best suits your organisation. We offer blended teaching and assessment in the work place with dedicated professional support to help the apprentice build their competence, confidence and skills.

A number of delivery options are available:

- ▶ Supported distance learning online with visits to a regional training centre for the practical elements of the course.
- ▶ We can deliver training on your site if the cohort sizes are 6 +.
- ▶ Face-to-face delivery at one of regional training centres in:



Support for the Employer

If you are using your levy funds to train a new laboratory technician, we can help with your recruitment process. We can advertise, sift, shortlist and interview if you require that support.

We deliver “Apprentice Ready” training to all line managers & HR and anyone else involved to ensure we are all working together to ensure the learner is receiving the best apprenticeship experience.

Support for the Apprentice

Apprentices will be supported by a qualified Lecturer, Vocational Skills Coach and dedicated Safeguarding lead.

Our programme support arrangements ensure that short, medium and long term objectives are monitored through a review process involving the Learner, Tutor, Vocational Skills Coach and Employer.

We encourage the apprentices to become STEM Ambassadors and invite them to attend Outreach events to encourage the next generation to take on scientific apprenticeships. We also offer enrichments days are offered at various science venues across the UK.





Off-the-Job Training

All apprentices must have 20% off-the-job training which must be evidenced and recorded. There are a number of ways the requirements for OJT can be met:

- ▶ Day release for knowledge qualification
- ▶ Recording CPD activities
- ▶ Research and study period during working hours

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YEARS

Duration of Apprenticeship

Typically it will take 21 months to complete with an additional 3 months for end point assessment preparation.

CSR's Safeguarding team will ensure the welfare and safety of our learners throughout their programme. We also offer careers advice and guidance when they come to the end of their apprenticeship.

Gateway

The apprentice will be put in a Gateway before going through End Point Assessment (EPA). The Gateway consists of:

- ▶ Achievement of a knowledge qualification. e.g. BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Applied Science.
- ▶ Completion of Vocational Competence Evaluation Log.
- ▶ Completion of 3 Behaviours Logs.
- ▶ Employer and CSR agree the Apprentice is ready for End Point Assessment which CSR will help to organise.

Opportunity to Progress

Organisations that have successful Apprentices at Level 3 could use their levy funds to progress their employee onto a Level 5 (Foundation Year) Higher Apprenticeship as a Technician Scientist and eventually to a Level 6 (Degree) Laboratory Scientist.

Professional Bodies

The Royal Society of Chemistry, the Royal Society of Biology, the Institute of Physics and the Science Council are part of the Trailblazer development Group. The Level 3 Laboratory Technician Standard is recognised by the relevant professional bodies at Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) level.

Funding

If you have an employer who pays the apprentice levy, you can fund your laboratory technician apprentices through your DAS account. A funding band maximum of £21k has been set for this standard and Levy paying employers have access to this funding to support the delivery of the apprenticeship.

Celebrating Success

We love to celebrate the success of our learners and organise annual graduation ceremonies for those that have successfully completed their programmes. We also help the employer nominate those that go above and beyond for The National Apprenticeship Awards and BTEC Apprentice of the Year.

“NPL’s science apprentice programme makes me very proud. It is helping to ensure a healthy and diverse pipeline of talent for our future.”

The National Physical Laboratory’s CEO, Peter Thompson



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