
What is a Laboratory Scientific Staff?

A Hospital Scientist has a degree from a recognized University (usually B. App.Sc). He/she is involved with all areas of the Pathology Laboratory, such as Haematology, Biochemistry, Blood Bank, Microbiology and Anatomical Pathology. As a University Degree is required for this position the Hospital Scientist plays a major role in the operation of the medical laboratory, assisting the Pathologist, providing reports and evaluating new tests as they become available. The main objective of all laboratory scientists is to provide quality results to assist the clinician doctor to understand what is causing an illness.

Roles of a Laboratory Scientific Staff?

Hospital Scientists may perform the following tasks:

- Perform diagnostic and other scientific tests on specimens, such as blood and body fluids.
- Maintain sophisticated automated analyzers, to ensure very accurate results are produced.
- Perform routine mathematical calculations and prepare graphs and reports for Senior staff.
- Use computers and computer-interfaced equipment.
- Carry out routine quality assurance checks on all testing done in the Laboratory.
- Help with training of new laboratory staff members.
- Supervise some staff members.

Specialities

Hospital Scientists usually specialize in one discipline, but multi-skilling in a number of Departments is a possibility.

Laboratory Technical Officer

A Laboratory Technical Officer has a Biomedical Diploma from a recognized TAFE. This qualification can be studied either part-time or full-time (3 years). The duties are similar to, but perhaps not as complex, as those of a Hospital Scientist. Technical Officers may have less responsibility than a Hospital Scientist, but play a pivotal role in the preparation and analysis of all pathology specimens.

Personal Requirements of a Laboratory Hospital Scientist and Technical Officer

- Enjoy scientific activities.
- Able to produce accurate and detailed work with attention to detail.
- Able to work equally well alone unsupervised, with attention to detail, and as part of a dynamic critical thinking team.