

### Biotechnologist

**Biotechnologists use their knowledge of biological science and technology to create and develop innovative products designed to improve the quality of human life.**

As a biotechnologist you'll study the chemical, genetic and physical attributes of cells, tissues and organisms in order to develop new technologies, processes and products that will address some of the biggest problems facing society. The role involves manipulating living organisms or their components to design or enhance vaccines, medicines, energy efficiency or food productivity and safety.



#### Skills:

You'll need to have:

- an aptitude for bioscience
- an enquiring mind and the ability to work with abstract concepts
- organisational and planning skills with the ability to plan ahead while delivering to deadline
- problem-solving skills
- good hand-eye coordination and the ability to use technical equipment with accuracy
- excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- the ability to analyse and interpret statistical and technical data

#### Qualifications:

You'll typically need an organic science degree, usually a 2:1 or above, to get into biotechnology. The following subjects are particularly useful: biochemistry/biological sciences/biology (crop and plant science, environmental)/biomedical engineering/biomedical science/biotechnology/chemical engineering/microbiology/molecular biology/pharmacology. It may also be possible to enter the career with a level 6 laboratory scientist degree apprenticeship. Some employers will also ask for a postgraduate qualification such as a Masters or PhD.

#### Working hours:

A standard working week is usually between 35 and 40 hours. You may need to work shifts, nights and weekends if conducting experiments that need continuous monitoring.

#### Salary:

- The starting salary for graduates generally falls between £19,000 and £24,000.
- The salary for experienced (over five years' experience) biotechnologists can be between £25,000 and £50,000.
- Salaries in highly experienced roles (ten or more years) with additional responsibilities can rise to £60,000.

Your salary will vary depending on your area of focus and the industry you're working in. Salaries tend to be higher in large companies within the private commercial sector, particularly at senior level.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/biotechnologist>

