

# SCIENCE



# Apprenticeships

TEACHER & CAREER ADVISOR RESOURCES



# WHAT DOES A SCIENCE APPRENTICE DO?

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Apprentices in the science sector perform a number of different roles with their vocational focus being very diverse. That being said there are some key themes that all science based apprentices would recognise.

### **LABORATORY / PROCESS SAFETY**

All apprentices will need to learn to work safely in their chosen environment. With a focus on safety, apprentices will need to understand how to protect themselves and others from harm and ensure they are following the procedures for carrying out their tasks properly. There are a number of hazards that could be dangerous & training to understand and mitigate these dangers will be a top priority for all employers in the scientific environment. Risk assessments that are carried out & full training given will require apprentices to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment, use tools & instruments correctly and know how to deal with issues when & if they arise.

### **QUALITY**

All science apprentices will need to gain the knowledge & skills to be effective in their roles. Ensuring that the work they do is of the highest possible quality with a focus on the end user, patient or customer being central to the tasks they carry out. Full training from the employer will ensure that the apprentice has the right level of skills & confidence to follow the set standard operating procedures so that the work done is right first time, every time. The training provider will assess the levels of understanding & be there to support and assist the apprentice to develop their skills & be safe.

### **REGULATIONS**

The science sector is a very heavily regulated one, from health & safety to chemicals, forensics, pharmaceuticals and food production, all have a corresponding

and ruling set of regulations that underpin how companies conduct themselves. The science apprentice will learn to understand how the external regulations impact the work that they do & how to ensure they follow procedures that support their employer & produce products that are safe & of high quality.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & BEHAVIOURS**

All apprenticeships are designed in the same way no matter the vocational level they are at. A group of employers, known as a Trailblazer group, will design the underpinning knowledge, skills & behaviours (KSB's) that an apprentice must develop during their time on the program. These KSB's will be further enhanced by the training provider that works alongside the apprentice & the employer to deliver a high quality program that develops the right level of transferable skills the sector needs.

### **OFF THE JOB TRAINING**

Off-the-job training is a crucial component of apprenticeships. It refers to the structured learning activities that apprentices undertake outside of their regular work duties. The aim of off-the-job training is to provide apprentices with the necessary knowledge, skills, & behaviours to excel in their chosen profession & should equal 6 hours per week on average for the duration of the on-program learning. Some higher level programs may have blocks of training over a week or more.

This protected time allows the training provider to work with the apprentice to develop high level industry specific skills & qualifications as well as assess their progress towards completion. Often referred to as a skills coach, they will also prepare the apprentice for their end point assessment.

