

MAKING CAREER CHOICES

FACT SHEETS TO HELP YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT CAREER AND STUDY PATH



Laboratory Worker

Laboratory Assistant, Laboratory Technician, Laboratory Worker

Industry Description

Practitioners in this industry usually work under the direction of scientists in a variety of fields performing tasks such as collecting and preparing samples, making observations, carrying out experiments, maintaining and using scientific equipment and recording and presenting results.

Below are some of the particularly demanding requirements. Reasonable Adjustment may apply for individuals with specific support needs in industry training. The learner should have:

- the ability to listen and understand information and ideas (oral comprehension)
- the ability to keep accurate written records, log books, labels and reports
- the ability to come up with solutions to complex or multi-layered problems
- the ability to perform and apply mathematical calculations
- tolerance for working indoors in environmentally controlled conditions
- the ability to handle, carry and control objects and tools such as fine focus microscopes (manual dexterity)
- the ability to produce accurate and detailed observations and reports
- the ability to stand and sit for long periods of time
- the ability to see details at close range (near vision)
- the ability to keep your hand and arm steady
- the ability to match or detect differences between colours including shades of colour and brightness (colour vision)
- tolerance for chemicals, odours and other contaminants.

Below are some of the important personal abilities that are required. The learner should have:

- an interest in scientific activities
- attention to detail
- the ability to produce accurate and detailed work
- the ability to work independently or as part of a team

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Workplace Health and Safety

All practitioners must understand their workplace health and safety obligations and safety requirements under the:

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* which imposes obligations on people at workplaces to ensure workplace health and safety.
- *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* that describes what must be done to prevent or control certain hazards which cause injury, illness or death.
- *Codes of Practice*, which are designed to give practical advice about ways to manage exposure to risks common to industry.

All practitioners must be able to participate in Risk Assessments, Incident Reports and Hazard Identification.

Some laboratory workers may handle dangerous and hazardous materials and as such, safety awareness and compliance with regulations is important. Protective clothing and equipment is usually provided.

Legislative or licensing issues

All practitioners must meet the qualification requirements set by industry standards.

Resources and further information

For more information on duties, tasks and career and labour market information relating to Laboratory Worker, please refer to <http://joboutlook.gov.au>.

Industry information/professional associations

Manufacturing Skills Australia: www.mskills.com.au

For career resources to help explore and plan careers, visit www.myfuture.edu.au.

This is intended to be used as a tool for career research, in conjunction with other resources. For specific course information, please refer to the TAFE Queensland website www.tafeqld.edu.au or ring 1300 308 233.