Who is this for?
- School leavers (Leaving Certificate)
- Level 5 or Level 6 Graduates with relevant experience looking to upskill or retrain in the laboratory environment
- Mature students, or those returning to work.

Target industry
Biopharma, chemical manufacturing, medical devices and diagnostics, food and drink, analytical testing laboratories.

Timelines
Two apprentice intakes per year. Apprentices will begin placement and academia in January and September.

“For many, a traditional college education can be undesirable or even unachievable for a variety of personal reasons. Our new Laboratory Apprenticeships provide a bona fide alternative pathway to gaining national qualifications that can kick start progressive careers in a booming and expanding industry, allowing apprentices to earn a healthy salary (on and off the job) while gaining valuable hands-on work experience and insights with some of Ireland’s leading companies.”
Andrew Hayes, Heinsinn Birex Pharmaceuticals Ltd Chair of Laboratory Apprenticeships

“This apprenticeship programme opens up a whole new route into the industry for school leavers keen to follow careers in this exciting sector. I look forward to seeing this vocational route bearing fruit for the sector and for its future employees.”
Matt Moran, BioPharmaChem Ireland Director

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Laboratory Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a programme of structured education and training, which formally combines work place learning with learning in an education or training center. Our two new apprenticeships were designed with close alignment to the current needs of the Irish BioPharmaChem sector.

Developed by industry for industry, in partnership with lead provider, Institute of Technology, Tallaght, two new apprenticeship programmes have been created:

- Laboratory Technician Apprenticeship
- Laboratory Analyst Apprenticeship

These laboratory apprenticeships are suitable for those who are interested in pursuing a career in a laboratory environment in the biopharma, chemical manufacturing, medical devices and diagnostics, food and drink, analytical testing laboratories.

Benefits for industry and the apprentice

- Developed by industry for industry
- Addresses and tackles skills shortage
- Improves staff retention and productivity
- Access to new talent pipeline
- Government subsidised training
- Earn while you learn – get a salary and a contract
- Gain a national qualification while working
- Excellent industry experience and career progression

Higher Certificate in Science – Laboratory Technician Apprenticeship, Level 6

This is a two year, earn while you learn apprenticeship programme with an approved employer. It combines on the job training with academic study.

Job Profile

The Apprentice will be responsible for carrying out basic laboratory duties that may include sample collection, equipment calibration, solution preparation, stock control and glassware maintenance while conducting basic physical and analytical testing methods on raw materials, in-process or finished product. All work to be conducted and recorded in accordance with good laboratory practices.

Entry Requirements

Pass (Grade 06 or better) in five leaving certificate subjects, two of which must be maths and a science subject, 250 CAO points, relevant FETAC Level 5 or Level 6. This criteria does not apply to over 23’s but all applicants will follow company and SOLAS recruitment procedures.

Learning Structure

The Level 6 Laboratory Technician Apprenticeship supports the continuous learning and hands on work experience undertaken by the apprentice with a three day on the job (working) and two day off the job (academia) learning structure.

Course Modules

YEAR 1 MODULES
Critical Skills Development
Good Manufacturing Practice
Introduction to Micro-biology & Biotechnology
Laboratory Safety
Maths
Fundamentals of Chemistry
Computer Systems
Laboratory Quality Systems
Calibration Sciences
Work Place Based Learning

YEAR 2 MODULES
Stability and Sample Analysis
Microbiology and Environmental Monitoring
Instrumentation (Theory & Practical)
Regulatory Affairs & Compliance
Lean Labs
Chemistry 2
Analytical Lab Skills
Work Place Based Learning

YEAR 3 MODULES
Validation
Technical Writing
Statistics and Analysis
Quality Assurance Systems
Analytical Chemistry
GMP and Data Integration
Case Studies and Problem Based Learning
Analytical Lab Skills
Work Place Based Learning

Ordinary Bachelor of Science Degree – Laboratory Analyst Apprenticeship, Level 7

This is a three year, earn while you learn apprenticeship programme with an approved employer. It combines on the job training with academic study.

Job Profile

The Apprentice will be responsible for carrying out basic laboratory duties (as seen in Level 6) while progressing to conduct both basic and advanced analytical testing methods (e.g. chromatography, water and microbiological testing) on raw materials, in-process or finished product. In addition, the Apprentice will gain more working exposure to various Quality Systems. All work to be conducted and recorded in accordance with good laboratory practices.

Entry Requirements

Pass (Grade 06 or better) in five leaving certificate subjects, two of which must be maths and a science subject, 250 CAO points, relevant FETAC Level 6, successful Level 6 Laboratory Technician apprentices. This criteria does not apply to over 23’s but all applicants will follow company and SOLAS recruitment procedures.

Learning Structure

The Level 7 Laboratory Analyst Apprenticeships supports the continuous learning and hands on work experience undertaken by the apprentice with a three day on the job (working) and two day off the job (academia) learning structure.

Critical Skills Development
Good Manufacturing Practice
Introduction to Micro-biology & Biotechnology
Laboratory Safety
Maths
Fundamentals of Chemistry
Computer Systems
Laboratory Quality Systems
Calibration Sciences
Work Place Based Learning

Stability and Sample Analysis
Microbiology and Environmental Monitoring
Instrumentation (Theory & Practical)
Regulatory Affairs & Compliance
Lean Labs
Chemistry 2
Analytical Lab Skills
Work Place Based Learning

Validation
Technical Writing
Statistics and Analysis
Quality Assurance Systems
Analytical Chemistry
GMP and Data Integration
Case Studies and Problem Based Learning
Analytical Lab Skills
Work Place Based Learning

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

LABORATORY ANALYST