

## Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Life Sciences Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities

The Modern Apprenticeship is a 2-3 year programme in which the candidate will complete several qualifications providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary to work in a laboratory environment and provide them with a pathway to completing further study such as an HND or Degree.

**Please note that due to COVID-19, this programme will initially be delivered via a blended learning approach, which may include face-to-face learning in the classroom, remote learning off-campus and digital learning. When delivery is taking place on-campus, there will be reduced student numbers and physical distancing measures in place.**

The MA in Life Sciences has flexibility around start dates, this depends on the entry requirements and/or prior experience for your apprentice. To enable an industry cohort experience, we would however recommend starts from September to October. As overview entry requirements/ prior experience, is as follows:

- If your apprentice does not hold an HNC, they can start in September 2020 to start their technical certificate at the beginning of their programme. Alternatively, they could start their SVQ and Core Skills anytime this year and then commence their HNC in September 2021. The completion time of 2-3 years would not be affected.
- If your apprentice already holds an HNC, they can start their SVQ and Core Skills anytime this year. The Technical Certificate would then be optional, which would be an HND. They could start their HND in September 2020 or September 2021.

The SVQ and Core Skills aspects of the MA are delivered in the workplace and therefore do not require College attendance. The Technical certificate (HNC and/or HND) do require College attendance, which is likely to be day release each week (they will therefore be required to travel to the College for this).

Please see below overview of the HNC, SVQ and Core Skills elements of the MA in Life Sciences.

### **HNC Applied Sciences:**

Candidates will attend college one day per week for 2 years to complete their HNC if they do not already hold this. Click on the link above to find detailed information on the HNC.

This will include the following units and will allow progression at the end of the Modern Apprenticeship programme to the [HND Applied Biological Sciences](#) or the [HND Industrial Biotechnology](#) depending on the units chosen.

Unit	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year
Laboratory Skills for Science Industries	✓	
Fundamental Chemistry: Theory and Laboratory skills	✓	
Statistics for science 1	✓	
Cell biology: Theory and laboratory skills	✓	
Applied Science: Graded unit 1		✓
Biochemistry: Theory and Laboratory skills*		✓
Microbiology: Theory and Laboratory skills*		✓
DNA and Genetics		✓
Biotechnology: An Introduction		✓

For the Industrial Biotechnology route candidates will complete the units Physical Chemistry and Inorganic Chemistry instead of DNA & Genetics and Laboratory skills for science industries.

*\*These modules will be different if your apprentice is studying with Edinburgh College. Edinburgh College do not deliver biochemistry or microbiology within their HNC. The above table is the HNC option with Forth Valley College. Edinburgh College will confirm the exact modules, which will be agreed with the employer to suit the apprentices' job role. Other colleges may also offer different modules, and this will be discussed and agreed with the employer upon enrolment.*

### **SVQ Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities:**

Candidates will complete their SVQ using the colleges online e-portfolio system over a period of 18-24 months. This is an entirely work based qualification and is completed with support from an industry experienced college work-based assessor.

If you are planning to support 2 or more apprentices on one cohort (either new recruits or internal staff completing the MA in Life Sciences to upskill), there is the option for a member of your organisation to train to become a work-based assessor. Please contact ATAC (Laura Bennett) for further information on this.

You can find SVQ qualification structure information via the following link:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/14428.html>

### Core Skills:

Candidates complete 5 core skill modules over the course of the programme built into the SVQ and HNC. These are communication, information technology, numeracy, working with others and teambuilding.

### Additional Support:

For candidates who lack academic experience or who have been out of education for a long time we also offer an infill NC option for Chemistry and Maths in the first year before they start the HNC. We also run drop-in sessions at the end of each day for candidates and have a full team dedicated to assessing and supporting candidates who have any additional learning support needs i.e. candidates with dyslexia.

### Government Funding and Top-Up Fees:

LATA Modern Apprenticeship	Employer Top-Up	SDS Funding
Top-up for partially funded students 16-19 years	<b>£0</b>	£9,200
Top-up for partially funded students 20-24 years	<b>£1,700</b>	£7,400
Top-up for partially funded students 25+ years	<b>£2,300</b>	£6,800

### Next Steps

See apprenticeship manager checklist for further information and guidance