



PHARMACEUTICAL & LIFE SCIENCES

Pharmaceutical companies develop, produce, and market prescription drugs and medications to help cure and treat patients, and vaccinate people against illness and disease. They may also be involved in the design and manufacture of medical equipment.

Life Sciences are biology and chemistry-based fields that involve the study of living organisms such as plants, animals, and humans, including their interaction with each other, and their interaction with a range of substances and chemicals.

Northern Ireland has a long history of health innovation, from Professor Pantridge who pioneered the first portable defibrillator, to recent spin-out successes from our local universities, Queen's University and Ulster University.





KEY FACTS

- In the UK, the pharmaceutical and life sciences industry has an annual turnover of around **£40.7 billion**.
- Over **233,400** people work in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector across the UK.
- The Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine developed to save lives during the Covid-19 pandemic was **developed in the UK**.



WHY PHARMACEUTICAL & LIFE SCIENCES?

The Pharmaceutical & Life Sciences sector is an exciting one to work in, with technological advancements changing the face of digital healthcare; bringing new approaches to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of various health conditions.

A dynamic sector, the work is often challenging but rewarding, offering generous salaries and benefit packages for employees.

Whilst good salaries and benefits are a perk, many people work in this sector because they're motivated to improve human health and make people's lives better.

By working in this sector, you could contribute to saving someone's life, curing disease and illness, increase human life expectancy, or help someone manage their pain and symptoms associated with their condition; giving them a better quality of life.



There are thousands of diseases and illnesses that we don't have cures or treatments for yet. The work of this sector is essential to discovering cures and finding new ways of managing illness to give all of us a better quality of life.



WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES?

There's a wide range of job roles and types of careers in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector. Most of the jobs require further and higher education, including degrees in a relevant subject area.

Opportunities available in the sector include

- Biomedical Scientist
 - Biotechnologist
 - Laboratory Technician
 - Biomedical Engineer
 - Pharmacologist
 - Clinical Research Associate
 - Data Manager
 - Data Analyst
 - Biochemist
 - Computational Biologist
 - Marketing Manager
 - Human Resources Manager
 - Finance Manager
 - Epidemiologist
 - Microbiologist
 - Industrial Pharmacist
 - Toxicologist
 - Pharmaceutical Sales
 - Chemical Engineer
- ...and more!



SALARY EXPECTATIONS

Salaries may vary based on the job role, your experience level, the entry qualifications required, and the size of the company you work for. Average salaries for recent graduates in this sector in the UK are between £23,000 and £30,000 per year.

Here are some **average salaries** for job roles within the sector:

Biomedical Scientist
Average salary
£53,579 per year

Laboratory Technician
Average salary
£23,937 per year

Clinical Research Associate
Average salary
£31,969 per year

Biochemist
Average salary
£36,747 per year

Epidemiologist
Average salary
£52,290 per year

Microbiologist
Average salary
£96,825 per year



For further information, click the link highlighted in **blue**



WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

Most roles in the sector will require further and higher education, this is especially the case for any science or technology-related or business support roles. Useful qualifications for science or technology-related roles include STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), whilst Business Studies, Media Studies, Accountancy, or Psychology may be useful for business support roles.

If you are interested in a career in the sector, it will be useful to know what type of roles you're interested in, so you can find out what the relevant qualifications are. You will then be able to research the entry qualifications required to get on to a specific course.

Postgraduate qualifications such as a Masters degree and Doctorate (PhD) are highly valued in the sector, and some employers will seek candidates that have achieved one of these qualifications.



WHAT SKILLS ARE USEFUL?

Beyond the qualifications needed to pursue a career in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector, there are a range of employability skills and personal attributes that are useful to have.

These include:

- Creative thinking and problem solving
- Analytical thinking
- Attention to detail
- Manual dexterity
- Logical thinking
- Organisation
- Time management
- Collaboration
- Research skills
- Curious
- Creative and innovative
- Focused and committed





WHERE CAN I GO TO FIND OUT MORE?

Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland

The Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland (HIRANI) acts as a representative for the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector. As a voice for the sector, it helps to promote the work of the sector and supports collaboration between different organisations and people across the industry.



PHARMACEUTICAL & LIFE SCIENCES EMPLOYERS



For further information, click the Company Logos or the links highlighted in **blue**