



SCHOOL LINKS

Skills for Work

Laboratory Science
at National 5

Your school has joined with North East Scotland College to offer you the opportunity to undertake a vocational qualification as part of your school studies. This information leaflet is designed to answer your questions and explain a bit about the course you will be taking.

WHAT IS IT?

The Laboratory Science Course is designed to introduce you to the knowledge and skills required for employment in a wide range of industries and services that have laboratory science requirements. Examples of such industries will include oil and gas, NHS, food and drink manufacture, research institutes, water authorities, public analysts, education etc.

Throughout the course you will undertake a broad range of advanced laboratory techniques, deploying modern analytical instruments and methods similar to those used in modern commercial laboratories.

Within this course you will also explore a variety of industries and career opportunities, and evaluate and develop your own employability skills. The development of team working skills will also feature strongly in the program.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

During this course you will:

- Build a range of technical knowledge and skills on industrially relevant laboratory techniques, including:
 - Complex gravimetric and volumetric analytical methods
 - Operation of a range of modern analytical instruments
 - Microbiological methods
 - Biochemical and DNA analysis
 - Physics related measurements and equipment
- Develop an ability to assess health and safety relating to a range of laboratory activities
- Develop skills in recording, manipulating and reporting of scientific results
- Gain an understanding of career opportunities in science and how to develop your own employability potential
- Become equipped for either further study or employment

HOW WILL I BE TAUGHT?

For the most part the course will involve learning through hands on practical work. However there will also be short lectures, computer simulations and activities, researching, group work and class visits.

Throughout the course you will be offered an opportunity to review and identify how your skills are developing.

You will be expected to demonstrate:

- Good time keeping skills
- Willingness to learn
- An ability to work independently
- Planning and preparation skills
- An ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with others
- Problem solving skills

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The course is made up of four units:

- Laboratory Science: Careers using Laboratory Science
- Laboratory Science: Working in a Laboratory
- Laboratory Science: Practical Skills
- Laboratory Science: Practical Investigation

WHAT DO I NEED?

You will need to bring pens and stationary and a scientific calculator. You will be provided with PPE, and this must be worn at all times for laboratory activities.

Whilst you are taking part in the course you will be required to:

- Always be ready to start your class at the given time
- Adhere to the School Pupils Code of Commitment

Eating and drinking are not permitted in the laboratories or classrooms. Drinking water is available from water dispensers in the corridors within the College buildings.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

To achieve the Course Award you must attend regularly and successfully complete all four units. Assessment will be by a range of methods, including practical activities, reports and presentations.

On successful completion of the full group award your SQA Exam Certificate will show a National 5 Award in Laboratory Science.

WHAT CAN I DO AFTER THIS COURSE?

This course may provide candidates with opportunities to progress to:

- Relevant programmes in further education colleges
- Employment and Modern Apprenticeships in science based industries.

WHO DO I SPEAK TO ABOUT THIS COURSE?

If you are interested in this course and want to find out more about it you should speak to your Guidance Teacher at school.

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It is expected that pupils enrolling on this course will remain enrolled with their school for the duration of the course. Therefore this course is **not** suitable for those school pupils planning on leaving school at Christmas.



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