



PRIORY APPRENTICESHIPS

Laboratory Technician Level 3

COURSE GUIDE

Overview

Science technicians play a vital role in supporting high-quality practical science and ensuring that laboratories remain safe, organised and compliant. Their work underpins effective teaching, smooth practical delivery and student engagement across Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Our Level 3 programme is designed specifically for school-based science technicians, developing strong technical skills, scientific understanding and safe working practices tailored to the education sector. As part of a Multi-Academy Trust, Priory Apprenticeships understands the challenge schools face when recruiting and retaining science staff, and our programme provides a cost-effective and proven method to solve this challenge.

About Priory Apprenticeships

Priory Apprenticeships delivers high quality, nationally recognised training designed to strengthen workforce skills specifically for the Education sector. Rooted in our experience as part of a Multi-Academy Trust, our programmes combine expert tutors, practical learning and strong employer partnerships to develop confident, capable staff who make a meaningful impact in their roles.

www.prioryapprenticeships.co.uk

Why

BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS

- Builds confident, capable technicians who support high-quality practicals
- Reduces teacher workload through skilled preparation of experiments
- Strengthens compliance across health & safety, chemical management and CLEAPSS guidance
- Supports long-term workforce development across your MAT or school
- Builds a stable, trained technical team aligned with curriculum demands
- Highly cost-effective training proven to improve retention and impact

BENEFITS FOR LEARNERS

- Develops strong scientific, technical and practical lab skills
- Builds confidence in preparing, delivering and supporting experiments
- Strengthens understanding of safety, legislation and compliance
- Provides hands on experience across biology, chemistry and physics techniques
- Leads to a nationally recognised Level 3 scientific qualification & possibly registration with the Science Council
- Supports progression into senior technician, lab assistant or science industry roles

How is the Programme Funded?

This programme is eligible for funding through the apprenticeship levy or Government Co-Investment. Employers may also be eligible for incentive payments from the Government for each learner on this course.

Course Value: £21000

Speak to us if you have any questions around programme funding.

Requirements

LEARNER

- Must be able to complete practical tasks and gather workplace evidence
- Should be committed to attending workshops and completing assessments
- Must have employer support to complete active learning
- Must not already hold a Science Technician qualification at the same or higher level

EMPLOYER

- Must provide a suitable role that allows the learner to practice a range of relevant science tasks
- Must allow active learning time (roughly 6 hours per week)
- Must support project activity and access to relevant systems and information
- Should assign a line manager or mentor to support learner progress

Typical Workshops

- 1 Introduction – Core Laboratory Foundations**

Introduces the programme and explores the foundations of safe laboratory practice, including basic health and safety, legislation, hazard symbols, SDS sheets, CLEAPSS guidance, solution units, the periodic table and an introduction to essential laboratory equipment.
- 2 Safe Working with Electricity & Basic Circuits**

Learn how to work safely with electrical equipment and explore series and parallel circuits, using ammeters, voltmeters and multimeters. Gain an introduction to electromagnets, the motor effect, oscilloscopes, signal generators and basic sound equipment.
- 3 Aseptic Techniques & Microbiological Practice**

Develop essential aseptic skills, including pouring agar plates, producing subcultures, preparing seeded plates and carrying out correct sterilisation and disposal procedures.
- 4 Handling Chemicals, Analytical Methods & Core Chemical Techniques**

Explore safe handling of flammables and alkali metals, burner use, chromatography, distillation setups, pH meters, titration, fermentation, filtration, evaporation and electrolysis.
- 5 Preparing & Delivering Biology GCSE Required Practicals (Set 1)**

Learn how to prepare, support and deliver Biology GCSE required practicals and complementary biological experiments safely and effectively.
- 6 Preparing & Delivering Physics GCSE Required Practicals (Set 1)**

Build the skills needed to set up and support Physics GCSE required practicals, understanding equipment requirements and key curriculum links.
- 7 Preparing & Delivering Chemistry GCSE Required Practicals (Set 1)**

Develop confidence in preparing, supervising and supporting Chemistry GCSE required practicals and related chemical investigations.
- 8 Business Environment Expectations & Requirements**

Understand the expectations, responsibilities and professional standards required of laboratory technicians within wider organisational structures.
- 9 Preparing & Delivering Biology Required Practicals (Set 2)**

Continue building competency in supporting Biology practicals by exploring a second set of experiments and their technical preparation.
- 10 Preparing & Delivering Chemistry Required Practicals (Set 2)**

Expand your skills in preparing and supporting a broader range of Chemistry practical tasks, including equipment and chemical management.

Typical Workshops

- 11 Preparing & Delivering Physics Required Practicals (Set 2)**
Further develop the ability to support Physics practicals by working through a second group of experiments and apparatus setups.
- 12 Working with Glassware & Chemical Disposal; Inspirational Demonstrations**
Learn safe handling, maintenance and disposal procedures for glassware and chemicals, and explore demonstration techniques that inspire and engage learners.
- 13 Advanced Analytical Techniques**
Gain an introduction to gas chromatography, mass spectroscopy, colourimetry, fluorimetry, viscometry and advanced pH measurement—understanding their applications and safe use.
- 14 Location Visit**
Experience laboratory practice in a different setting and observe how technical staff manage equipment, processes and safety procedures. This visit broadens your understanding of scientific environments and highlights how your skills transfer across a range of educational or technical laboratories.

How Long is the Programme?

The Laboratory Technician programme is completed over 21 months, plus a 4 month assessment period.

How Will You Be Assessed?

Learners will be assessed throughout their programme and will be required to complete an end of programme assessment. During the programme learners build a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their leadership skills, behaviours and application within their workplace.

The EPA includes:

- A Practical Observation – an independent assessor observes the apprentice completing laboratory tasks safely and accurately.
- A Professional Discussion – a structured discussion based on the apprentice's portfolio, demonstrating their knowledge and application of laboratory skills.

Get Started

EMPLOYER

If you are an employer, you can nominate team members that you would like to complete this professional training. Scan the QR Code and complete the short form or get in touch via our contact information below.

LEARNER

If you would like to enrol onto this programme yourself, speak to your line manager and they will support you. You can also reach out to us directly. Please note that we will need to contact your line manager to confirm you have support to complete the programme.



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