

Meet Para



Biomedical Scientist

Hi, my name is Para. I am a Biomedical Scientist and I work in the Pathology Laboratory at the Royal United Hospitals Bath. Find out more about me and what I do below.

What do you do?

Biomedical scientists carry out tests which assist with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. There are different disciplines to biomedical science. I work in Blood Sciences, specifically haematology and blood transfusion. Haematology is the study of blood and blood-forming tissues. Blood transfusion relates to blood being given to a patient, for example during an operation. I process blood samples by carrying out routine or specialised tests. When a patient needs a blood transfusion, I make sure that the right type of blood is given to them. I also carry out quality control on equipment and machines to make sure that they are working correctly.

Describe a typical day

I work shifts so there is no typical day. At the start of the day shift, there is a handover with my colleagues and I am allocated a task to complete. During a weekend or night shift, there is only one biomedical scientist on duty. Therefore, I carry out all the duties by myself.

What are the joys and challenges of your job?

I enjoy dealing with blood transfusions because each patient is different. Sometimes a patient urgently needs a transfusion because of a major haemorrhage (severe blood loss.) It is a high-pressured situation and I need to act fast. This can be challenging, particularly during the night shift when working alone

How did you get into this role?

I studied biology, chemistry and maths at A-Level and I had an interest in science. I didn't get into medicine so I decided to study biomedical science at university. As part of this degree, I learnt about the human body. Before you can register to practise as a biomedical scientist, you must complete a year of training in a specific discipline or as a multi-disciplinary where you spend time in different fields. This can be done during a placement as part of your university degree or after graduation.

I needed to complete this year of training after graduating but trainee positions were limited so I worked as a Sterile Services Technician, and then as a Medical Lab Assistant, while I waited for an opening as a Trainee Biomedical Scientist to come up. Eventually a vacancy for the role of a Trainee Biomedical Scientist was advertised so I applied and secured this post.

At university, I studied a biomedical science degree which was accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS.) It was more straightforward studying an accredited degree as I didn't need to complete any additional training because I met the standards for registration when applying for the Trainee Biomedical Scientist post.

After completing my trainee year, I was signed off by the IBMS and I could then become a registered biomedical scientist with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC.)

Since then I have progressed further by specialising in DNA analysis (Polymerase Chain Reaction or PCR.) This test looks for hereditary conditions or specific mutations in DNA.



What tips would you give somebody interested in working for the NHS?

If you face obstacles, I would advise you not to give up. There are lots of different careers in healthcare so keep an open mind. I didn't get into medicine but I had an interest in science. The role of biomedical scientist is critical to diagnosing conditions and I use my scientific knowledge everyday.

For further information about the training routes to becoming a biomedical scientist, visit the [Health Careers](#) and [Institute for Biomedical Science](#) websites.