

WHAT'CHA
GONNA DO?

WORKING IN A LABORATORY COULD B 4 U

"I feel a bit like a detective, investigating and figuring out what kind of bug someone has. It's a great feeling knowing that what I do every day is important to help diagnose and treat patients."

Belinda, medical laboratory scientist for Counties Manukau District Health Board

Q What does someone working in a laboratory do?

Q What subjects do I need to take at school?

Q How do I get into it?

Q Will I get a job after studying?

Q Where can I find out more information?

Do you have an eye for detail? Do you enjoy problem-solving? Are you interested in learning how to use hi-tech equipment? Do you have good hand-eye coordination?

If you answered yes, then working in a LABORATORY could be for you!

What does someone working in a laboratory do?

Laboratory services provide a wide range of services such as histology (testing human tissues obtained during surgery to detect diseases) and microbiology (detecting and growing bacteria and fungi that cause human disease). A **medical laboratory scientist** tests and reports on patient specimens (blood, urine, faeces and tissues) to help identify diseases. They also have the opportunity to move into management roles. A **medical laboratory technician** analyses patient specimens and trains under the supervision of a scientist or a pathologist (doctor). A **phlebotomist** (pronounced "fle-bo-to-mist") collects blood samples and sometimes other specimens from patients, and makes sure that the samples are handled correctly so that the test results are accurate.

What subjects do I need to take at school?

Good subjects to take are biology, chemistry, English and maths.

How do I get into it?

To become a **medical laboratory scientist** you need to do a 4-year degree in medical laboratory science at Auckland University of Technology (AUT), Massey University or the University of Otago.

To become a **medical laboratory technician** you train on-site in a hospital like Middlemore. After 2 years of work experience you will sit an exam in your chosen specialist area. To become a **phlebotomist** you train on-site in a hospital or in a clinic collection room.

To get a placement as a medical laboratory scientist, technician, or phlebotomist keep an eye on the NZ Herald for when these positions are available. You can also register on www.aucklandhealthcareers.co.nz/cmdhb which will notify you when jobs are being advertised by Counties Manukau District Health Board. Check out the accompanying "Health Occupations Summary" for a more detailed list of courses available and entry requirements.

Will I get a job after studying?

It is very likely you will get a job as there is a shortage of laboratory workers in NZ and overseas and the demand is expected to grow.

Where can I find out more information?

AUT, Faculty of Applied Sciences

Website: www.aut.ac.nz

Email: courseinfo@aut.ac.nz

Tel: 0800 AUT UNI

Massey University: www.massey.ac.nz

University of Otago: www.otago.ac.nz

NZ Institute of Medical Laboratory Science website: www.nzimls.org.nz

Other useful websites: www.cmdhb.org.nz/careers

www.healthcareers.org.nz

www.kiwicareers.govt.nz

www.kiwiquals.govt.nz

For any other questions call Counties Manukau District Health Board on (09) 259 5052 to speak with someone about careers or email careers@cmdhb.org.nz.