

# LABORATORY TECHNICIAN



**Do you want to work in a diverse and innovative industry that actively encourages women to participate and provides the following opportunities?**

- **develop transferrable skills & knowledge**
- **become a specialist in your field**
- **advance your career**
- **protect the integrity of data management**
- **undertake further study and increase income.**



## OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

Laboratory Operations is not an industry sector as such. It refers to a diverse group of certain technical and scientific occupations such as Samplers, Testers and Laboratory Personnel that appear across industries. At least 9,347 organisations are involved in the sector, with 96,200 people employed in 2018 and the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) have accredited 3,973 laboratories in Australia. Most jobs are within the Automotive, Food & Pharmaceutical Production or Manufacturing industries. Laboratory Services play a critical role in the safety, quality and compliance of many industry Sectors and for this reason, the sector is highly regulated.

## WHAT DOES A LABORATORY TECHNICIAN DO

This role can be diverse as the job relates to the use of scientific techniques and equipment to carry out qualitative and quantitative tests and surveys, and to operate and safely manage scientific processes. This role can be critical to the quality and safety of samples, specimens, products and materials across many industry sectors. Some testing and surveying that may be required to be undertaken by a laboratory technician are - chemical analysis, forensic analysis, construction materials, food and beverage processing and testing, mining, mineral assay, process manufacturing, wine making. It is a key role of laboratory personnel to recognise and report non-conformance and maintain security and confidentiality of all client/enterprise data and information. Personnel generally work under strict operating procedures and must be able to access, record and present information accurately. They may be required to work in a laboratory as well as out in the field.

**“I love working as a laboratory technician because I play an important role in the ongoing integrity and productivity of the manufacturing industry”.**

For further information or advise contact

[mae@agrifooditab.com.au](mailto:mae@agrifooditab.com.au)

Email: [tony@uensw.com.au](mailto:tony@uensw.com.au)



## LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

### Selection Criteria:

- \*Well-developed communication and people skills
- \*Effective English skills and math's skills
- \*Problem Solving skills
- \*Ability to work in a team or independently
- \*Ability to read and write basic reports and work instructions
- \*Experience in the use of technology such as Microsoft applications to record and retrieve data
- \*Well-developed time self-management skills
- \*Strong commitment to safety
- \*Eye for detail and motivated to produce quality outcomes
- \*Ability to adhere to workplace policies and procedures
- \*Ability to wear industry specific PPE all day

### TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

- \*Perform lab tests and surveys of solid, liquid, and gaseous samples, specimens, products or materials
- \*Use standard laboratory instruments and equipment to perform routine lab operations including setting up new tests and surveys with associated equipment
- \*Interpret relevant information in tables, charts, and graphs
- \*Perform specified calibrations and record calibration data results
- \*Evaluate and analyse test outcomes and ensure tests and survey results meet requirements
- \*Follow laboratory safe work practices using the Quality Assurance System (QAS) and laboratory test methods (ASTM, AASHTO, SM, etc.).
- \*Keep accurate records
- \*Use and apply laboratory-based computer software for storage, retrieval, display of information, analysis and reporting
- \*Produce reports, communicate results and report to line managers
- \*Store lab test and survey data and materials and dispose of waste per requirements

### Training Requirements and Pathways

#### Entry level/traineeship qualification:

MSL20118 - Certificate II in Sampling and Measurement

Traineeships at Certificate II level generally take between six to twelve months to complete and training usually takes place on the job.

#### Trade qualification:

MSL30118 - Certificate III in Laboratory Skills

Certificate III level Traineeships generally take between twelve to twenty-four twelve months to complete and training takes place on the job.

#### Higher trade qualification:

MSL40118 - Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques

This qualification is the educational pathway for existing workers to increase skills and knowledge.

#### Income/opportunities/outlook

Laboratory technicians work in almost every type of manufacturing industry that requires laboratory tests and surveys to be conducted. This can be for developing new products or materials or improving current manufacturing procedures or for quality control purposes. Technicians can also find employment in research institutions or government laboratories such as those run by the Federal Government Departments of Health, Agriculture or Commerce, as well as by state and local agencies. Technicians may work alongside any of the following staff - biochemists, metallurgists, meteorologists, geologists, medical professionals, or other scientific personnel in large or small laboratories located all over the country. Therefore, the opportunity to gain employment is ongoing and the career pathways are diverse.

#### Current wages:

Entry level employee earns approx. \$49,000 per annum. The average salary for an experienced laboratory technician is \$65,767 per year in Australia, positions advertised commencing from \$65,000 up to \$77,000 per annum. A laboratory Manager receives from \$110,000 to \$130,000 per annum. The rate of pay would depend on which industry you were working in and the level of responsibility or technical skill you were required to have.

For further information or advise contact  
[mae@agrifooditab.com.au](mailto:mae@agrifooditab.com.au)  
[www.uensw.com.au](http://www.uensw.com.au)  
Email: [tony@uensw.com.au](mailto:tony@uensw.com.au)

