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YORK ST JOHN UNIVERSITY

Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship

Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship

The Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship (BSc biological sciences programme) has been mapped to the Level 6 Laboratory Scientist apprenticeship standard.

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/laboratory-scientist-degree.

Following successful completion of this programme, you will be awarded a BSc in Biological Sciences.

Apprentices will have a broad-based scientific education coupled with relevant and current technical laboratory skills. Additionally you will develop discipline-specific skills, research skills and personal transferable skills to prepare you for a range of careers in a range.

The apprenticeship will take approximately 4 years to complete depending on prior knowledge and experience and the timing of the End Point Assessment .

About York St John University

The Biosciences academic and technical team that deliver the Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship partner with a range of employers including FERA, ACM Global and Covance who have supported and contributed to the development and industry oversight of both our undergraduate and degree apprenticeship provision. They were commended by the Professional and Regulatory Statutory Body reaccreditation event (2019) for the level of involvement of employers in designing and delivering the curriculum.

Our employers liaison group meet twice per semester and through these interactions, our programmes and students benefit greatly from industry links, curriculum development and innovation.

The academic staff who deliver the Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship have been active members of the trailblazer group for the Level 7 Research Scientist apprenticeship. They had significant involvement in the development of this standard that was approved for delivery in May 2019.

In 2018 and 2019, the Biomedical Science Degree Programme was ranked in the top 5 in the UK for student satisfaction from the National Student Survey.

“The degree-level Laboratory Scientist Apprenticeship with York St John University, was a natural next step for Fera with the mantra that harnessing new talent and bringing in fresh ideas helps Fera deliver its world-class science and develop the next generation of scientists to further develop our staff.”

Philippa Hobby - Business Support Manager

Laboratory Scientist Apprenticeship Route Through Biological Science

Year 1 – 100 credits				
Module Title	**Credits**	**Level**	**Semester**	**Day**
Biological Molecules and Reactions	20	4	1	Thurs
Personal and Professional Development	20	4	1+2	Semester 1+2 Thurs
Biochemistry and Metabolism	20	4	2	Thurs
Introductory Microbiology and Immunology	20	4	Summer	Day release / flipped learning
Cell Biology	20	4	Summer	Day release / flipped learning

Year 2 – 120 credits				
Module Title	**Credits**	**Level**	**Semester**	**Day**
Human Anatomy and Physiology	20	4	1+2	Day release / distance learning
Clinical Biochemistry	20	5	1	Tues
Cellular Pathology	20	5	2	Tues
Molecular Biology	20	5	Summer	Day release / distance learning
Research and Analytical Methods	20	5	Summer	Day release / flipped learning

Progression point to Level 5 after 2 years – all Level 4 modules completed.

Gateway Assessment One – (18 to 20 months after starting the programme)

The Research Project is to be carried out in the workplace. 100 hours to be spent on the laboratory-based collection of data to be equivalent to the full-time research project at YSJ.

Year 3 – 60 credits (+ start of 40 credit research project work split over the summer and Year 4)				
Module Title	**Credits**	**Level**	**Semester**	**Day**
Medical Microbiology	20	5	2	Day release / distance learning
Haematology, Immunology and Transfusion Science	20	5	1+2	Fri
Pharmacology and Toxicology	20	6	Summer	Day release / distance learning
Research Project	40	6	Summer before Year 4	N/A

Progression point end of Year 3 when Level 5 completed.

Year 4 – 100 credits				
Module Title	**Credits**	**Level**	**Semester**	**Day**
Research Project (to include work based learning / log book)	40	6	1+2	Workplace
Cancer Biology	20	6	1	Thurs / Fri
Clinical Genetics	20	6	Summer	Day release / flipped learning
Biology of Disease	20	6	2	Thurs / Fri

Complete all modules by June and go through exam board – have until October to complete EPA and graduate in November.

End Point Assessment

The EPA will cover all elements of the apprenticeship standard and will lead to the graded apprenticeship award and Registered Scientist status.

End point assessments (EPA) to include:

1. Review of behaviours evaluation log
2. Presentation of a workplace synoptic project
3. A vocational competence discussion scenario case study

Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education

Teaching and Learning

Blended Learning:

Effective and inclusive learning and teaching is facilitated through the delivery of modular content using a blend of face to face taught sessions, practical classes, academic tutorials and virtual learning environment.

Assessments / quizzes / videos / on-line tutorials plus the use of apps and all of our recommend textbook resources are available as e-books through our library website.

Members of the academic team have extensive experience of developing distance learning modules, which will be extremely useful for working with employers to develop and deliver apprenticeship courses.

Quality Marks:

The mapping of the Biological Science BSc programme to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) ensures the programme and modules are taught and assessed at the appropriate level. All modules have also been mapped to the required Skills, Knowledge and Behaviours required for the Laboratory Scientist Level 6 degree apprenticeship standard.

First Year Personal and Professional Development for and Second Year Research and Analytical Methods. Skills in numeracy and also essay writing will be addressed in these modules specifically and further support required will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Teaching team:

Academic staff in Biosciences have a teaching qualification and are Fellows (or Senior Fellows) of the Higher Education Academy or enrolled on the Postgraduate teaching qualification for Higher Education. The team includes two laboratory technicians who combined have almost fifty years of experience of working in the laboratory setting. The Associate Head of School has significant programme development, quality assurance and management experience for full-time, part-time and distance learning module delivery, as do the rest of the academic team. All academic staff are research active and have peer reviewed articles in both scientific and pedagogical research **https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/schools/health-sciences/staff-profiles/biomedical-science**

Teaching and Learning (continued)

Inclusive:

Our small cohort sizes (fewer than 30 students per year currently) mean that the apprentices will not get “lost” on the days when they attend taught sessions on campus and will also quickly get to know the other students and academic staff.

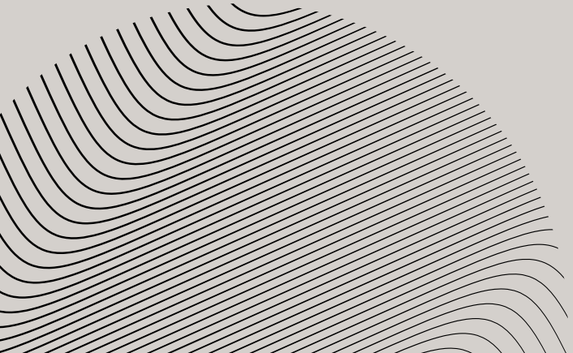
The apprentices can also access the Student Union and Study Development support when they are on campus. Our Subject Librarian will also be involved in the key skills modules to help with referencing and searching literature. The Digital Training Team also support our apprentices with their personal e-portfolio development to evidence their 20% off the job activities.

Pastoral Support:

All apprentices are assigned to a member of staff as their Personal Tutor throughout their studies. The Personal Tutor is responsible for the student’s pastoral care during their time at university and is the first point of contact for areas of concern or guidance. This regular contact with academic staff and the relationship that builds with the personal tutor means that the academic staff can intervene early if there are any issues with lack of engagement or achievement by any student. This helps with our excellent student retention and progression through the programme and would be exactly the same arrangement for apprentices, so that they also have personal tutorials on their campus days.

Assessment Load:

The assessment types in our degree have been designed to follow a spiral curriculum in that assessment types or previous academic content is revisited as the programme progresses. The types and timings of assessments have been carefully planned to avoid over-assessment of one assessment type or clustering of summative assessments. This will be advantageous to apprentices who will be balancing their studies with their normal work commitments. In addition, the theoretical aspects of the Laboratory Scientist programme are assessed by a range of diverse methods, including: laboratory reports, essays, oral presentations, posters, in programme tests, portfolios, data handling / problem solving and viva voce exams which will lend themselves to building confidence in the apprentices for their end point assessment.



Communication with Employer and Learners

Induction:

Prior to commencing their studies, the apprentices will be invited to the York St John University campus to see the facilities and to meet the academic team and the other apprentices in their cohort. There will be an orientation day and also a discussion of expectations from the University and employer about the behaviours and commitment of the apprentices and a chance for the apprentices to ask any questions they might have about the degree programme.

Visits:

There will be regular visits to the apprentices at the workplace to discuss their academic achievements, progress with the log book and other work-based learning tasks with their trainer / mentor in the laboratory.

The timing of Gateway 1 and Gateway 2 assessments will also be discussed and agreed with the employer and apprentice to allow to appointment of the external assessor in a timely manner for the end point assessment. Both the apprentice and workplace mentor can contact the academic staff by email and telephone in addition to these face to face tripartite meetings that will strengthen and build the relationship between all parties.

“Degree apprentices are a fundamental part of our business growth strategy. The ability to work with apprentices over a four-year period, leading to a formal qualification gives us a pipeline of highly-skilled, highly-experienced, highly-capable individuals who already know our business and customers and are able to reach their full potential. From the outset we worked with the team at York St John University to co create a programme which was innovative, supportive and most importantly developed the skills we needed as a business. During their apprenticeships, it is not just their academic learning which develops we found our apprentices develop strong work ethics, a high degree of initiative and the ability to think and act for themselves and have become fully integrated and respected members of their communities. Using the Degree Apprenticeship route has also allowed us to continue to develop our existing as well as new employees and ensures that we maintain inclusive and open entrance routes into our business to enable social and demographic mobility and to enable access to higher levels of education for individuals who may not have previously been able to the access these courses.”

Rob Watts -European Apprenticeship Manager and Global University Relations

COVANCE

Admissions

Start Date:
September

Length:
48 months plus end point assessment, part-time

Fees:
£27K

Funding Support:
This programme is offered exclusively as a level 6 Degree Apprenticeship and matches the necessary government standards and requirements, allowing levy paying companies in England to offset their levy payments when engaging employees in this development programme.

Contact
Jo Burgess
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York St John University
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apprenticeships@yorksj.ac.uk

A guide to onboarding apprentices at YSJU

Suitability and eligibility
We will discuss your apprenticeship needs with you and the suitability of the apprentice for the programme. We will start the registration, contracting and admissions onboarding processes with you.

Contracting
YSJU offers degree apprenticeship training on the terms set out in our standard apprenticeship training services agreement – a copy of which is provided from the start of onboarding for your legal/ procurement team's scrutiny and approval. The completion deadline for this is 4-6 weeks before induction.

Admissions
Learner applies online here:

https://app.geckoform.com/public/#/modern/FOEU0299BIJjbgRQ

Timescale: 6-8 weeks before induction (beginning of August)

Initial Needs Assessment (INA)
On satisfactory receipt of evidence, the learner is asked to complete an Initial Needs Assessment (INA) to determine their Individual Learning Plan (ILP), the duration and price of their apprenticeship.

Timescale: 5-7 weeks before induction

Commitment Statement & Apprenticeship Agreement
Learner receives a conditional offer letter with a commitment statement for completion of personal details and signing by both Learner and Employer. Employer must ensure they have an Apprenticeship Agreement in place and that the dates match those on the Commitment Statement.

Timescale: 4-6 weeks before induction

Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship

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