

SECTOR FOCUS:

# Life Sciences in Cheshire and Warrington

**National Careers Service**

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**Cheshire & Warrington**

The Life Sciences sector covers a number of industries which work to improve human health and well-being, this includes pharmaceuticals, medical biotechnology and medical technology. Many businesses in the sector are develop and produce prescription and 'over the counter' medicines and products as well as medical devices and equipment. Locally, there is also strength in health analytics and medical marketing. The majority of Life Science employers are in the private sector and there has been a growth in smaller organisations overall. Employers are seeking individuals with science and technology based skills and knowledge and many roles demand high levels of qualifications. There are also supporting roles available across the sector, for example in sales and logistics.

The area has a strong history of working in this sector and within the science industry in general, for example there is local strength in rural science. Although AstraZeneca in Macclesfield may be the most well known local life sciences employer there are employment opportunities with other, smaller organisations. Alderley Park, which is part of the Cheshire Science Corridor, is home to over 150 businesses and this is likely to increase as the park is set to grow.

## What types of jobs are available?

Average annual salaries in the sector include:



**LABORATORY TECHNICIAN**  
£15,000 TO £30,000



**RESEARCH SCIENTIST**  
£14,000 TO £60,000



**MICROBIOLOGIST**  
£26,250 TO £99,000



**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**  
£25,000 TO £80,000



**PHARMACOLOGIST**  
£25,000 TO £80,000



**MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE**  
£19,000 TO £60,000  
PLUS BONUSES

## Fast Facts

about the Life Sciences sector in Cheshire and Warrington:



Around 6,500 employees in the life sciences sector.



Approx. 2,000 working in the production of pharmaceuticals.



Alderley Park is the largest research and development campus in the UK.



The sector needs more young people and adults to take science based education and training.



Nationally there is expected to be 46,000 job openings for biological scientists and biochemists in the next 5 years.



Approx. 12% of all Life Sciences employees are based in the North West, behind only the East and South East of the UK.



## What companies are based in Cheshire and Warrington?

Examples of local employers in the Life Sciences sector include:

- AstraZeneca, Macclesfield
- Advanced Medical Solutions, Winsford
- Concept Life Sciences, Alderley Park
- Ashfield Healthcare, Macclesfield
- Sanofi, Holmes Chapel
- Thermo Fisher Scientific, Warrington
- Waters Corporation, Wilmslow
- McCann Medical, Macclesfield

## How do I get into the sector?

Traditionally, the vast majority of those entering the life sciences sector would hold a degree or PhD in a relevant subject but the number of apprenticeships is growing. Competition for such vacancies is however strong and usually require A level (or equivalent) qualifications in science subjects. Support roles may also attract graduates or those with professional qualifications.

## Colleges and Universities

There are a wide range of colleges and universities in the area that offer programmes in science based subjects. To search for a local course you can use the National Careers Service course search tool at:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/course-directory/home>  
or to find out more about university courses go to:  
[www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk).

## Apprenticeships

The recent introduction of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships is helping to expand opportunities and locally there are plans to increase the supply of apprenticeship opportunities. Recent examples of local apprenticeship vacancies have included a Laboratory Scientist Higher Apprenticeship at Astra Zeneca. There are more opportunities outside of the area for those able to move further afield. Cogent (see below) list science apprenticeships on their website or you can search all apprenticeships through the National Apprenticeship service.

## How do I find out more about careers in the Life Sciences sector?

National Apprenticeship Service: <https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>

Sector Skills Council: [www.cogentskills.com/careers/](http://www.cogentskills.com/careers/) and [www.cogentskills.com/new-talent/individuals/apprenticeship-vacancies/](http://www.cogentskills.com/new-talent/individuals/apprenticeship-vacancies/)

Graduate career information: [www.prospects.ac.uk/](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/)

### National Careers Service

Help is available online, or with one of our careers advisers by phone or in person.

For more information call 0800 100 900 between 8am to 10pm 7 days a week or search online for National Careers Service.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

