

Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Laboratory Medicine)

2019

Undergraduate

This program provides you with the knowledge, skills, experience and accreditation needed to practise as a qualified medical laboratory scientist.

The Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Laboratory Medicine) is a four-year program with a clinical placement providing you with work-ready skills and experience in diagnostic pathology.

Laboratory medicine is the science of pathology – detecting and diagnosing disease. It involves analysing samples and conducting tests using body tissues (e.g. biopsies, pap smears) and fluids (e.g. blood, urine).

RMIT is the only Victorian university to offer all of the following majors: haematology, transfusion and transplantation science, anatomical pathology, medical microbiology and clinical biochemistry.

You'll have flexibility in choosing your major disciplines and will also complete a major clinical placement, providing you with work-ready skills and practical experience.

In your final year, you'll have the opportunity to study a discipline-focused advanced laboratory medicine course to develop your research skills.

Career outlook

Medical laboratory scientists play a critical role in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, working as part of a team with doctors, pathologists, scientists, technicians and laboratory assistants.

It's estimated that up to 70% of clinical decisions made by doctors are based on information provided by medical laboratory scientists.

In Australia, employment opportunities are stabilising but are expected to have moderate growth over the next few years. Unemployment is considered 'low' in this career path. Worldwide there is a shortage of medical scientists.

You may find employment in:

- hospital laboratories
- private pathology providers
- research centres
- pharmaceutical companies
- food and cosmetic industries
- veterinary sciences
- forensic science laboratories

Industry connections

RMIT works in close partnership with the healthcare industry through an Industry Advisory Committee to ensure graduates are equipped with skills and practical experience that are up-to-date and relevant to their needs.

Professional recognition

RMIT's laboratory medicine is the only degree in Victoria that is professionally accredited by the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS) and the only Australian degree accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) in the UK.

International opportunities

Laboratory medicine provides opportunities for students to travel overseas and undertake 10 to 13 weeks of professional practice in an approved laboratory. Destination countries include the UK, US, Ireland, Singapore, Korea and Sweden.

Pathways

Graduates of the RMIT Associate Degree in Applied Science (Biomedical Stream) who achieve a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 out of 4.0 are guaranteed entry with one year of credit (up to 120 credit points). Graduates with a GPA of less than 2.0 may apply and, if successful in gaining a place, may be eligible for credit.

Graduates of the RMIT Diploma of Laboratory Technology (Pathology Testing) or Diploma of Laboratory Technology (Biotechnology) who are successful in gaining a place may also be eligible to apply for credit of up to one year.

Program snapshot

Program code: BP147

Duration

Full-time: 4 years
Part-time may be available

Location

Bundoora campus

Selection mode

ATAR (2018: 77.20)

How to apply

Semester 1: VTAC
vtac.edu.au

Semester 2: Direct to RMIT
rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/direct

Fees

For local fee information:
rmit.edu.au/programs/fees

Contact

Info Corner
330 Swanston Street
(cnr La Trobe Street)
Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. +61 3 9925 2260

rmit.edu.au/programs/bp147

Program structure

Year 1

You'll undertake courses designed to provide a strong academic grounding in biological sciences. You'll be introduced to the professional field of laboratory medicine via a hospital laboratory visit and basic studies in clinical disciplines.

Year 2

The clinical disciplines of haematology, transfusion and transplantation science, clinical biochemistry, anatomical pathology 1 and medical microbiology are introduced in preparation for professional practice.

Year 3

You'll undertake general pathology, molecular genetics and diagnostics. You'll also study two major discipline streams.

In the second half of the year you'll undertake supervised professional practice in a diagnostic, research or reference laboratory.

Students may have the opportunity to do 10 to 13 weeks as an overseas placement.

Year 4

In the first semester you'll complete further supervised professional practice. You'll also complete courses in Integrative Pathology and Advanced Laboratory Medicine in a clinical discipline stream.

Program elective examples:

- Clinical Biochemistry
- Haematology
- Anatomical Pathology 2
- Medical Microbiology
- Transfusion and Transplantation Science

Year 1	Chemistry for Life Sciences	Introduction to Human Biosciences	Biology of the Cell	Introduction to Laboratory Medicine
	Introduction to Medical Biochemistry	Systems Physiology	Introduction to Microbiology, Immunology and Genetics	Statistics and Epidemiology
Year 2	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 1	Clinical Immunology	Histology	University elective
	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology 2	Diagnostic Microbiology	Anatomical Pathology 1	Haematology and Transfusion Science 1
Year 3	General Pathology	Molecular Genetics and Diagnostics	Program elective	Program elective
	Professional Practice in Laboratory Medicine 1			
Year 4	Professional Practice in Laboratory Medicine 2			
	Integrative Pathology	Advanced Laboratory Medicine		University elective

Compulsory courses
 Program electives
 University electives

Please note: This is an example of the program structure. Courses may change and may not be available each semester.

Additional information

Non-Year 12 applicants may submit additional information if they would like it to be considered. For semester 1 intake, this can be completed through the VTAC Personal Statement online. For semester 2 intake, this can be completed through the personal statement in the Apply Direct application.

SEAS Form: This is a gender under represented program and awards SEAS bonus points to male applicants. To be eligible you must submit a VTAC SEAS application and select category 1.

Working With Children Check: Students must hold a valid Working With Children Check prior to undertaking the clinical components of this program.

Police Check: Students must present evidence of a successful National Police Records Check prior to undertaking the clinical components of this program.

Immunisations: Prior to commencing professional practice, you should be vaccinated for Hepatitis B.

Inherent requirements: In order to complete this program, students need to perform certain physical tasks and behave in a professional manner while on clinical placement and when undertaking practical and laboratory sessions on campus. Prospective students should consider the inherent requirements of this program. For details visit www.rmit.edu.au/study-with-us/applying-to-rmit/local-student-applications/entry-requirements/inherent-requirements.

This information is designed for Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents of Australia.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate and current at the date of printing. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the RMIT University website before lodging your application. Visit www.rmit.edu.au. RMIT University CRICOS Provider Code: 00122A. RMIT Registered Training Organisation code: 3046. Prepared June 2018.