

Diploma of Laboratory Technology (Pathology Testing)

2019

Vocational Education

Gain the skills to become a technician in laboratories in hospitals, research institutes, pharmaceutical companies and private pathology laboratories.

Medical laboratory technicians or assistants conduct routine laboratory tests for pathologists, microbiologists/bacteriologists, biochemists, clinical chemists, pharmacologists or veterinarians.

The program will equip you with the knowledge and skills to work under supervision to:

- examine micro-organisms or changes in cells and tissues
- perform chemical analyses of blood and other body fluids
- assist with research into biochemical or genetic processes

Industry connections

In your second year, you'll complete a 10-day work placement organised by RMIT.

The placement will take place in laboratories ranging from small research labs to large pathology companies.

Learning and teaching

We keep classes small to ensure that you get individual attention from teachers.

Our labs have the latest industry standard equipment and there's ample opportunity for you to gain hands-on experience.

RMIT offers a variety of learning and teaching approaches including lectures, seminars, scientific laboratories, workshops, presentations, group discussions and syndicate work.

You'll have access to online resources through the myRMIT student portal.

Ongoing assessment throughout the semester includes examinations, presentations, group projects, research projects, laboratory reports and practical assignments.

Career outlook

There is high demand for technicians in pathology laboratories in public hospitals and large private pathology providers including Australian Clinical Labs, Dorevitch and Melbourne Pathology.

Professional recognition

Graduates are eligible for membership with the Australian Society for Microbiology and the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists.

Pathways

Graduates with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 out of 4.0 may be eligible to apply for credit of up to one year into the following programs, if they are successful in gaining a place:

- Bachelor of Biomedical Science
- Bachelor of Science (Biotechnology)
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Laboratory Medicine)
- Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

The completion of the Certificate III in Science or the Certificate IV in Tertiary Preparation science stream may provide a pathway into this program (certain criteria must be met).

Program snapshot

Program code: C5362
National code: MSL50116

Duration

Full-time: 2 years
Part-time may be available.

Location

City campus

Selection mode

ATAR: Not published

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/c5362

Program structure

Year 1

You'll gain a foundation in chemistry, mathematics, biology, scientific communication, computing, biochemistry and occupational health and safety.

You'll develop general laboratory skills such as microscopy, aseptic techniques, chemistry techniques and the use of laboratory instruments.

In chemistry you'll become skilled at preparing solutions that meet strict quality control standards. You'll also learn to use specialised equipment and how to work safely with potentially dangerous chemicals.

Year 2

You'll do specialised study in the major diagnostic areas relevant to a pathology lab including: haematology, microbiology, histology, clinical chemistry and quality assurance.

You'll learn how to undertake blood counts, test levels of chemicals in blood, identify bacteria using a microscope and culture methods and prepare thin slices of tissues to examine microscopically. These tests aid in the diagnosis of all disease types.

Communicate with other people (MSL913001)	Perform microbiological tests (MSL975001)	Prepare, standardise and use solutions (MSL974001)
Plan and conduct laboratory/field work (MSL913002)	Perform haematological tests (MSL975002)	Perform chemical tests and procedures (MSL974003)
Provide information to customers (MSL915001)	Perform histological tests (MSL975003)	Perform biological procedures (MSL974006)
Process and interpret data (MSL924001)	Perform chemical pathology tests (MSL975004)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compulsory Units - Select all 9 Group A - Elective Units - Select all 5 Group B - Elective Units - Select all 2 Imported Elective Units - Select all 2 Group C - Elective Units - Select all 3
Use laboratory application software (MSL924002)	Perform immunohaematological tests (MSL975006)	
Analyse data and report results (MSL925001)	Perform aseptic techniques (MSL973004)	
Apply quality system and continuous improvement processes (MSL934002)	Perform microscopic examination (MSL973007)	
Maintain laboratory or field workplace safety (MSL944001)	Recognise healthy body systems (HLTAAP001)	
Implement and monitor environmentally sustainable work practices (MSMENV472)	Make a presentation (BSBCMM401)	

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