



2019

Vocational Education

Diploma of Laboratory Technology (Biotechnology)

Specialise in molecular biology, develop a broad-ranged knowledge of scientific principles and gain practical laboratory experience to start your career in the biotechnology industry.

As a biotechnologist you'll apply your knowledge of living systems to solving important practical issues including controlling disease and making the environment safer.

You'll provide technical support to scientists working in research, production and testing positions in government and commercial laboratories.

Career outlook

Graduates work as technicians in biotechnology laboratories and provide technical support for scientists working in:

- medical research
- vaccine production
- agriculture
- diagnostic screening
- commercial plant propagation
- food microbiology

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 biotechnology companies.

Professional recognition

Graduates are eligible for membership with the Australian Society for Microbiology and AusBiotech.

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

Program snapshot

Program code: C5363

National code: MSL50116

Duration

Full-time: 2 years

Part-time may be available.

Location

City campus

Selection mode

VTAC: Not published

How to apply

Semester 1: VTAC
vtac.edu.au

Fees

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

Contact

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Melbourne VIC 3000
Tel. +61 3 9925 2260

rmit.edu.au/programs/c5363



Program structure

Year 1

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

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 areas relevant to a research lab such as molecular biology, tissue culture, genetics, chromatography, electrophoresis and quality assurance.

You'll extract DNA from bacteria and other cells which you'll amplify (using a technique called PCR), separate (using electrophoresis techniques), stain and examine. You'll learn how to use a biohazard cabinet and aseptically grow plant or animal cells in a flask.

Communicate with other people (MSL913001)	Maintain laboratory or field workplace safety (MSL944001)	Perform aseptic techniques (MSL973004)
Plan and conduct laboratory/field work (MSL913002)	Implement and monitor environmentally sustainable work practices (MSMENV472)	Perform microscopic examination (MSL973007)
Provide information to customers (MSL915001)	Perform microbiological tests (MSL975001)	Prepare, standardise and use solutions (MSL974001)
Process and interpret data (MSL924001)	Apply electrophoretic techniques (MSL975008)	Perform chemical tests and procedures (MSL974003)
Use laboratory application software (MSL924002)	Apply routine chromatographic techniques (MSL975009)	Perform biological procedures (MSL974006)
Analyse data and report results (MSL925001)	Perform tissue and cell culture techniques (MSL975013)	Recognise healthy body systems (HLTAAP001)
Apply quality system and continuous improvement processes (MSL934002)	Perform molecular biology tests and procedures (MSL975014)	Make a presentation (BSBCMM401)

 Core Units - Select all 9	 Group A Elective Units - Select all 5	 Group B Elective Units - Select all 2	 Group C Elective Units - Select all 3	 Imported Elective Units - Select all 2
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Please note: This is an example of the program structure. Courses may change and may not be available each semester.