

Candidate Information

Position:	Higher Level Apprentice - Lab Technician (3 posts)
School/Department:	Faculty Office MHLS
Reference:	26/113202
Closing Date:	Monday 6 April 2026
Salary:	£28,133 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 22 April 2026
Duration:	Available for 2 years, starting 1 September 2026

JOB PURPOSE:

The Future Medicines Institute (FMI) is a new, industry-led research and innovation hub for Life and Health Sciences in Northern Ireland, based at Queen's University Belfast (QUB). Co-founded by a consortium of Northern Ireland's leading pharmaceutical, diagnostics, and health analytics companies, together with QUB and Ulster University, FMI brings together world-class expertise and state-of-the-art facilities in a collaborative, translational research environment. Our goal is to tackle today's most urgent health challenges through cutting-edge advancements in precision medicine, novel therapeutics, next-generation diagnostics, and transformative healthcare technologies.

As a Higher-Level Apprentice – Laboratory Technician at FMI, you will play a vital role in supporting cutting-edge research by providing technical and operational assistance to FMI staff and industry partners. Working as an integral member of a multidisciplinary team, you will gain hands-on experience and develop a broad skillset in advanced experimental techniques and emerging technologies.

Your week will be split between practical, on-the-job training at FMI (4 days/week) and academic study at Southern Regional College (SRC) (1 day/week), where you will work towards a Foundation Degree in Applied Science (choosing either Analytical or Bioscience Pathway). Over the two-year programme, you will build your expertise through structured in-house training, professional development, academic coursework, and one-on-one mentoring, designed to help you grow into a confident, capable laboratory professional.

Please see further information regarding the Applied Science Foundation Degrees provided by SRC in the links below:

<https://www.src.ac.uk/courses/applied-science-analytical-pathway-level-5-foundation-degree-higher-level-apprenticeship>

<https://www.src.ac.uk/courses/applied-science-bioscience-pathway-level-5-foundation-degree-higher-level-apprenticeship>

Many of QUB's previous Apprentice Technicians have gone on to secure full-time Technician roles within QUB. Candidates who successfully complete the programme and demonstrate strong performance, commitment, and meet all milestones, will be well suited for a permanent position, subject to availability.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Train in biological techniques to support laboratory projects, learning appropriate methods and developing the skills to interpret results.
2. Support the set-up and development of biochemical and cellular screening assays, gaining insight into how these are used to test antibodies and small molecules.
3. Learn to operate, troubleshoot and carry out routine maintenance of laboratory equipment, maintaining accurate records of KPIs, performance, QC measures, faults, and reporting breakdowns.
4. Assisting with routine servicing tasks and helping to keep the lab tidy.
5. Learn how to monitor and manage laboratory supplies, assisting with stock checks and restocking consumables as needed.

6. Observe and assist with the operation and scheduling of key laboratory equipment, learning how to use it efficiently and support bookings for colleagues/partners.
7. Work collaboratively with team members, taking part in lab discussions and meetings to better understand ongoing projects.
8. Help maintain communication with project partners, learning how to share relevant updates and developments.
9. Learn how to record and manage experimental data accurately, using lab notebooks or digital systems, and develop skills in presenting findings during team meetings.
10. Learn to prepare technical procedures, e.g. test buffers, stock solutions, culture media and replenishment of general supplies.
11. Take part in relevant training to build knowledge of modern biology techniques, best practices, and drug discovery processes.
12. Assist with basic administrative tasks, such as helping to organise research meetings and updating records, to gain experience in project coordination.
13. Understand and follow health and safety procedures in the laboratory, including the correct use of equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) to maintain the highest standards of health and safety compliance.
14. Provide general day-to-day support to help the research group meet its objectives, contributing to the success of the team while developing your own skills and experience.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Minimum of 1 A-Level in a science subject at grades A*-C (e.g. Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths, Health & Life Sciences), or relevant Level 3 BTEC/OCR qualifications, or ADAL: Access Diploma which contains an approved science module.
2. Applicants must have attained a minimum of 48 UCAS points achieved through the completion of A Levels, National Awards, Access Diplomas or other alternative approved level 3 qualifications.
3. At least 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C (9-4), or equivalent, including Maths, English, and a Science.
4. Must be 18 years or older by 1st July 2026.
5. Genuine interest and foundational knowledge in the subject area.
6. Basic understanding of health and safety regulations.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Ability to demonstrate communication skills appropriate to a professional working environment.
2. Evidence of developing/improving/enhancing skills through practical application.
3. Competent in the use of Information & Technology and relevant software packages such as MS Word, Excel.
4. Ability to demonstrate a methodical and logical approach to tasks.
5. Ability to work on own initiative and to prioritise tasks.
6. Able to demonstrate working successfully as part of a team.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Apprenticeships are designed to develop new knowledge and skills at a higher level than you already have, or in a new vocational area. You will not be eligible to apply if you already hold the same or similar qualification in the same field e.g. ONC/D, HNC/D or degree in a related subject.

Candidates must meet the entry requirements for and be eligible to enrol in the Level 5 Foundation Degree in Applied Science (either Analytical or Bioscience pathway) at Southern Regional College (SRC).

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Gillian Riddell - g.riddell@qub.ac.uk.