



Competencies for Food Graduate Careers

Laboratory Technician or Technologist

3rd Edition
April 2024

The emphasis here is that the role will be mainly lab-based, either analytical or microbiological. The job could be in industry, technical services, contract labs or academia. (NB: 'Research Technician' is more likely to be aligned to the Research or Materials Technician/ Technologist profile).

Some advertised roles may be not graduate entry (so don't require a suitable degree qualification). Explore requirements & detail of each advertisement to find what suits you.

Typical Role Names

Laboratory Technician | Analytical Technologist | Microbiology Technician |
Microbiologist (Lab-based)



Check Out Our Case Studies

There are standards for the technical content of UK Food Sciences degrees; but there are more aspects you can develop to support success in the workplace. Industry have outlined what they think may be the most valuable additional skills, knowledge and behaviours for 14 typical graduate roles & this is one of them.

Desirable Elements for this Role

Critical Thinking
Handling Data
Personal Responsibility
Planning and Organisation
Positive Attitude
Reliability

Self-Awareness
Self-Development
Thoroughness and Attention to Detail
Teamworking
Working Under Pressure

This material has been developed with industry involvement to support graduates, employers and degree educators.
<https://www.ifst.org/resources/competencies-food-graduate-careers>. Find out about more technical graduate roles in the food industry & what may be best suited to you in developing your career with our partners: