

Bacteriologist

What is it?

Bacteriologists are a type of microbiologist who specialise in studying bacteria. They investigate how bacteria grow, interact, and affect humans, animals, and the environment. Their work is vital in areas such as disease prevention, food safety, environmental protection, and the development of antibiotics and vaccines.

Qualifications/Experience Required:

To become a bacteriologist, you'll usually need a degree in **microbiology**, **biomedical science**, **biological science**, or a related subject. Some roles, especially in research or healthcare, may require a **master's degree or PhD**. You can also enter the field through a **Laboratory Scientist Degree Apprenticeship** or by working your way up from a **lab technician** role while studying part-time.

Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Curious and passionate about science.
- Skilled in lab work and data analysis.
- Detail-oriented and methodical.
- Good at problem-solving and critical thinking.
- Able to work independently and as part of a team.

What the Work Involves:

- Studying bacteria to understand how they grow and spread.
- Identifying harmful bacteria in food, water, or clinical samples.
- Developing new antibiotics, vaccines, or hygiene methods.
- Conducting lab experiments and analysing results.
- Writing reports and presenting findings to scientists or health professionals.

Money/Wage Guide:

- **Starting Salary: £23,000**
- **Experienced Salary: Up to £45,000**
- **Average UK Salary (2024): £37,430**

Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

The demand for microbiologists, including bacteriologists, is expected to grow steadily due to their importance in **public health**, **pharmaceuticals**, and **environmental science**. With experience, you could move into **senior research**, **clinical microbiology**, **teaching**, or **policy advising**.

Typical weekly hours – 38 to 40 hours per week.

Some roles may involve shift work or being on call, especially in healthcare settings.

Related Opportunities:

- **Biomedical Scientist**
- **Epidemiologist**
- **Pharmacologist**
- **Environmental Scientist**

Further Information:

- [National Careers Service – Microbiologist](#)
- [Careerpivot – Microbiologist](#)