

Laboratory technician

As a laboratory technician you would be based in university or company laboratories and would provide technical support to researchers which would be crucial to the successful development and testing of quantum technologies.



What does the role involve?

- Meeting with researchers to understand their requirements
- Interpreting system designs
- Building systems following bespoke designs and methods which enable technologies to meet certain specifications
- Testing of systems/hardware you have created
- Recording and analysing data
- Presenting results to colleagues
- Learning how to use new pieces of equipment
- Ensuring all equipment is maintained and serviceable
- Ensuring the laboratory follows strict health and safety procedures at all times



Where would I work?

Laboratories within campuses or company facilities.



What subjects should I do well in at school?

Physics, Electronics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics, Biology.



What qualifications do I need?

Minimum Bachelor's degree in a relevant subject e.g. Physics, Electronics, Chemistry, Computer Science, Mathematics. Some technicians have post-graduate qualifications, however, this is not essential.



What skills and attributes are required?

Good manual dexterity and hand-eye coordination, attention to detail, time management, ability to work individually and as part of a team, good communication skills, logic, innovative thinking, problem solving, determination, resilience, flexibility.



What work experience would be helpful?

Experience carrying out research projects, hands-on experience working in a laboratory (could be gained during laboratory sessions of an undergraduate degree).



What about career progression?

There is the opportunity to progress from the role of laboratory technician to senior laboratory technician or manager, overseeing multiple laboratories or projects. In some cases, it is possible to specialise within a particular subfield or technology area and become senior within that.

CASE STUDY



Sébastien Guilbaud

Originally from France, Dr Sébastien Guilbaud began his career in science by studying chemistry at undergraduate level before moving to study biophysics at postgraduate level. After deciding that an academic career was not for him, Sébastien chose to pursue a career in research support, specifically in the role of research laboratory technician, which ultimately allowed him to remain heavily involved in academic research, without carrying out the research directly himself. Find out more about Sébastien's journey at tinyurl.com/careersinquantum



UK NATIONAL
QUANTUM
TECHNOLOGIES
PROGRAMME