



Job Situation

Office, with computer. Microbiology lab. Co-operation and teamwork. Report to Directors. Flexible hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

50

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$4,000

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$300

Duties

Plan and conduct research into the structure and functioning of human cells. Prepare grant proposals. Administer budgets. Train and supervise staff. Analyze final results. Write and edit research papers. Consult with other scientists.

Prospects

Larger research projects. Teaching. Consulting. Publishing.

Job Title

Research Microbiologist

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

2121

Job Description

There is no system more fascinating than our own bodies, and the microbiologist who studies the structure and function of human cells is at the forefront of discoveries in human health. Research requires passion and great patience. Some researchers will spend their entire working lives seeking the answer to one question.

Research begins while the scientist is in the final years of study at university. The graduate student identifies a specific question and may document the preliminary research as a master's thesis. The doctoral student must conduct and publish original research to qualify for a Ph.D. This is usually when scientists first learn to apply for grants and to administer research budgets. If the doctoral research is outstanding, major universities and research institutes will want the microbiologist to join their team. The offer of good facilities and staff means as much or more than wages to the truly devoted scientist.

You are responsible for designing experiments that are as foolproof as possible. When results are published, other scientists will try to duplicate the experiment to see if the results hold true, and this can only be accomplished if your original research was carefully planned. Overseeing the entire process, you train and coach the research team until they are all on the same wavelength, devoted to the same purpose.

When there is a breakthrough or a set-back, everyone shares the joy or the despair. Some research takes years to complete and you as the head of the team must hold it all together. If the research is successful it can save lives and even change the course of history. At the very least it can advance the cause and open the way for another team's success.