



#### Job Situation

Biochemistry lab and small office.  
Meeting rooms. Teamwork and on own.  
Computer, reference books. Reporting to  
Head biochemist. Flexible hours.

#### Weekly Hours of Work

45

#### Overtime

#### Monthly Salary

\$5,200

#### Student Loan – Owing

\$20,000

#### Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$290

#### Duties

Biochemical analysis and investigation.  
Analyze data. Administer budget and  
staff. Train and supervise staff. Liaise with  
other departments. Consult with program  
directors. Write reports.

#### Prospects

Research. Program Director. Educator.  
Consultant.

#### Job Title

Biochemist

#### National Occupational Classification (NOC)

2112

#### Job Description

Your days are spent in focused concentration and quiet teamwork. With one other chemist, a couple of technicians, and a laboratory assistant, you methodically process the racks, bottles and bins of samples that are delivered almost daily by the field technicians and the product development lab for batteries of tests. Exactitude is the watchword; careful labelling, meticulous analysis, intense scrutiny of the results, and tidy notes, help ensure that your team produces reliable results for you to present at the weekly product development department meetings.

When you turn up a sample that has something wrong, different, or strange about it, it's immediately tagged. You call the product development team, tell them the batch number, order more samples and get to work. It doesn't matter to you whether you're handling cow's blood, organs from mice fed a diet high in some new feed additive, or grains grown with a new fertilizer. By the time you've finished with them they'll be broken down to their essences and studied from every angle.

Sometimes there's a thrill—"Just a second, the vitamin levels in the new hybrid grain are double the normal range. This stuff could be something special!" Then there's a disciplined, methodical investigation. Although you still love the gleaming glassware and the shoulder-to-shoulder sense of teamwork in the lab, you also spend a lot of time at the computer, compiling and analyzing test results and writing reports. There are administrative duties as well, ordering supplies and equipment and scheduling your team.

You still pursue your academic studies too, and Zenith is fostering your research by letting you use data from your work as the basis of your thesis. Working and studying is an intense effort, but you are gaining knowledge and experience daily, and are lucky to have such an opportunity with a supportive employer.