
## Job Situation

Biochemistry lab. Scientific technology. Office, computer, phone and fax. Meeting rooms. On your own, close co-operation and teamwork. Responsibility pressures, sometimes deadlines. Reporting to research Director. Flexible hours.

## Weekly Hours of Work

50

## Overtime

## Monthly Salary

$3,800

## Student Loan – Owing

## Student Loan – Monthly Payment

$290

## Duties

Plan and direct research. Perform biochemical analysis and research. Analyze research findings. Administer budget, staff. Train, supervise staff. Collaborate, communicate with other scientists. Write reports.

## Prospects

Project direction. Management. Education. Consulting.

## Job Title

# Research Biochemist

## National Occupational Classification (NOC)

2112

## Job Description

This job would probably not seem as interesting to the nonscientific observer as the excitement of testing new products. The quiet, sedate proceedings in the laboratories here indicate to you that serious work is in progress, unhurried by the pressures of commercial concerns. Instead of random sampling, with real investigation only when something unusual shows up, here every sample that comes through the door gets the complete going over.

There is a comparison study in your lab now, between the tissue of mice that were fed additives, and a control group who ate untreated food. The samples of mouse tissue are labelled with numbers, and your team has no idea who ate what. You want to know if there are differences and if so exactly what they are. Sometimes you test food products themselves, such as milk or eggs, to see if you can detect any effect from treatments to the animals or their feed.

Much of your work these days is administrative. You are responsible for scheduling and supervising your team, and for collecting and collating the results of the team's work and fitting it into the bigger picture of the overall research effort. When there are new processes or equipment introduced you work closely with your team until you are sure they are up-to-speed.

You spend a lot of time consulting with other section heads and the project directors. Together you all plan the research for months ahead. When final results come in for a product, food or drug, you all collaborate on a report that will be submitted to a legislative committee. You also spend a lot of time reading research papers and scientific journals and networking with other scientists all over the world. There is some competition in the world of science, but there is also a sense of global community, especially in the rewarding field of public health.