

# MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

KAIHANGARAU TAIWHANGA RONGOĀ

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## WHAT IS A MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN?

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Medical laboratory technicians may do some or all of the following:

- reassure and care for patients they are taking samples from
- take blood or samples such as fingernail scrapings or throat swabs, and label samples
- prepare slides of blood and other body fluids, and perform tests on these samples
- match blood for transfusions
- examine cultures for bacteria that can cause disease in patients
- perform antibiotic sensitivity and allergy testing.

## WHERE DO LABORATORY TECHNICIANS WORK?

- Hospitals
- For District Health Boards,
- Private laboratories (clinical or research) or doctor's surgeries.
- NZ Blood Service

## WHAT TRAINING IS INVOLVED?

To become a registered medical laboratory technician, you need to:

- Work as a trainee medical laboratory technician in an approved laboratory for two years
- Gain the Qualified Medical Laboratory Technician (QMLT) certificate or hold a degree approved by the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand
- Or hold a New Zealand Bachelor of Science degree (or equivalent) with a major in a relevant biological science.

## WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE NOW?

Secondary school students should strive to have NCEA credits in at least three of the following:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Maths
- Te Reo Māori (optional)
- English

