



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

MEDICAL LABORATORY
ASSISTANT(MLA)



“ The importance of work carried out by MLA staff is crucial to patient service delivery and very rewarding. ”

THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TEAM NEEDS YOU

MEDICAL LABORATORY ASSISTANT (MLA)

Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) are clinical support staff, they work in pathology laboratories contributing to the process of diagnoses and disease treatment.

A Medical Laboratory Assistant's main role is as support to Biomedical Scientists. Their work is often varied and can involve a variety of laboratory skills; their work may involve: making up chemical solutions; responsibility for labelling and sorting of tissue samples; disposal of chemical or biological waste; maintaining stocks or consumable items; phlebotomy.

MLAs can specialise in one area of their work; however, many often have the opportunity to work in a range of different aspects of pathology and can expand their responsibilities and skills by training and supervising other staff. Areas MLAs can work in include: Biochemistry; Histology; Immunology; Haematology; Transfusion science; Cytology.

Skills Required:

Medical Laboratory Assistants need a responsible and mature approach to the work; to be good at practical tasks; accurate in their work with good attention to detail; the ability to concentrate for long periods; reassure and put people at their ease; and work as part of a team.

Training Programme:

Trainees are given mostly on-the-job training, starting with general safety instructions and how the job role fits in the day to day working of the laboratory. Trainees then move on to specialised individual training. MLAs also have the opportunity to work towards NVQ Level 2.

Entry Qualifications:

The minimum level of qualification required is five O-Levels.

Career Pathway:

MLAs are not State Registered, but can enhance their working lives with training opportunities to NVQ Levels 2 and 3.

There is a single grade for all Medical Laboratory Assistants but employers may award extra salary scale points for posts that require additional skills and responsibilities.

How to Apply:

Vacancies are advertised in local papers, on the Belfast Telegraph website, Job Centres or by contacting the personnel officer or head biomedical scientist at a laboratory where you would like to work.

Web Links:

Institute of Biomedical Science – www.ibms.org
Belfast Telegraph – www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk
Job Centre Online – www.jobcentreonline.com

Contact address for further copies

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