



 Scotland's Colleges

INTERNATIONAL

Training and Development Services for the Life Sciences Industry



The Scottish
Government

A project part-funded by
the Scottish Government.

Life Sciences in Scotland

Scotland has always been at the forefront of medical discoveries from anaesthesia and antiseptics, to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and Dolly the sheep. Today, Scotland is home to innovative and dynamic product development and hosts one of the most sizeable life sciences clusters in Europe, with a significant multinational presence in research, development and manufacturing.

The definition of life sciences is constantly changing as new sub-sectors emerge e.g. theranostics and biofuels, and Scotland's diverse life sciences sector continually adapts to remain at the forefront of such developments. The sector consists of just over 500 organisations (of which approximately 10% are academic) and employs approximately 30,500 people across the sector. These organisations contribute over £2.8 billion to the Scottish economy annually, with a projected GVA growth rate of 8% which is four times the average rate for Scotland.

Global life science companies with a presence in Scotland include Lifescan, Wyeth, Invitrogen, Aptuit and Schering Plough. All these factors testify to Scotland's position as one of the leading centres for life science in the world.



Services for International Markets

Scotland's Colleges Life Sciences Partnership (SCLSP) provides vocational education services in country through face-to-face teaching or in Scotland, depending on the best value solution. Additionally, we can provide blended learning that is well supported by tutor advice and guidance for online courses. The methodology used to provide the service is flexible and will be on the basis of customer requirements taking into account the nature of the subject and the budget available. Customers can select specific course units/topics that meet their specific needs and colleges in Scotland can provide training for trainers in order to develop institutional capacity to deliver courses and to save on costs.

Education and training services on offer include:

- workforce development according to business specific requirements
- developing in country capacity to manage training services
- tailor-made courses
- courses with articulation routes to degrees in the UK.

SCLSP has identified two specific flagship programmes that are ideally suited to meet training needs of industry in the 21st century.

- Life Science Technician Graduate Conversion Course
- Modern Apprenticeship Programme in Life Science.

Our Track Record

Colleges in Scotland have significant experience of working in partnership on development funded projects to improve the employability of students in Scotland and internationally. In particular, many of the partner colleges in SCLSP have worked together in previous projects and with Scottish universities. Two notable projects are:

- Scottish Colleges Biotechnology Consortium (2004-2008) – a project which developed many online materials that will be of use to international clients and also delivered pre-bio courses to industry.
- Skills Utilisation Project (current) – aims to develop a skills ecosystem in Scotland with colleges working together with universities and industry in the life sciences field.

Colleges in Scotland work with employers to develop the skills of their workforce and so improve competitiveness. We have developed a Modern Apprenticeship programme in life sciences together with SEMTA (the Sector Skills Council (training body) representing the life sciences industry in the UK). We have worked with many life sciences companies, the National Health Service (NHS), Scottish Water and local government authorities.

Colleges in Scotland work with international partners to deliver life sciences subjects and develop new programmes.



For further information contact:

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