

# Laboratory Medicine



## Diagnosis and research at the cutting edge

Laboratory Medicine involves detection, diagnosis and management of disease. With a year of clinical placement experience included in the program, UniSA's Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine trains medical scientists who are ready to take on important roles in laboratories, hospitals and research organisations.

### Careers

Laboratory medicine is a dynamic profession with excellent long-term career prospects including management, research, education and specialised laboratory work.

In demand worldwide, medical scientists are employed in clinical diagnostic laboratories of major hospitals, public and private pathology labs, medical and biological research laboratories, education, forensics and veterinary medicine. They also work in research and development and for biotechnology, medical supply and pharmaceutical companies as product specialists.

### Professional recognition

The Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine is accredited by the Australian Institute of Medical Scientists (AIMS), and students are eligible for free membership. Graduates are eligible to join AIMS, the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists, and the Australian Society for Microbiology.

### Starting salary range

Recent graduates can expect to earn anywhere from \$40,000 to \$55,000 per annum.

### Laboratory Medicine at UniSA

Taught at City East campus in the heart of South Australia's premier medical training and research precinct, UniSA's Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine is the perfect preparation for a rewarding career as a medical scientist. The distinct blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience offered by the program gives graduates significant employment advantages.

Students enjoy access to new, state-of-the-art laboratories, quality IT facilities and teaching by experienced academic staff from the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences and the profession. A broad and comprehensive curriculum covers training in haematology, transfusion medicine, clinical chemistry, molecular pathology, cytology and histopathology.



### University of South Australia

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*"The clinical placement helped me develop the contacts and networks that led to what I'm doing now, working as a medical scientist in spinal research. It's a great area to be in because you're working in a team with a common goal – to improve the health of future generations."*

**Olga Theodorakakos**

Graduated 2006

Now working as a scientist at the IMVS Adelaide Centre for Spinal Research



*"We employ UniSA Laboratory Medicine graduates because they are so well-prepared to work in diagnostic pathology. They have a very good understanding of the science of laboratory medicine and an appreciation of what's required in the workplace. Because they undergo a two-semester placement program they really hit the ground running, and are often fielding job offers before they've even finished their studies."*

**Darryl Graham**

Manager, Laboratory Medicine  
Women's and Children's Hospital,  
Adelaide

## Graduate skills

The program will give you the theory and practical skills required to perform and coordinate a broad range of diagnostic tests, including cross-matching for blood transfusions, identifying the organisms that cause infection and food poisoning, screening for cancer cells, and detecting genes responsible for disease conditions. Students also learn how to examine blood for any changes in its composition or function, and monitor levels of blood chemicals including sugar, electrolytes, pH, metabolites, toxins, drugs, hormones and proteins.

By the time you've graduated you'll understand the theoretical basis of diagnostic procedures; be able to critically assess procedures and develop new techniques; interpret diagnostic results; administer a clinical diagnostic laboratory; and contribute to research programs.

## Industry experience

With a whole year devoted to industry placements in diagnostic pathology and biomedical research labs, this program develops the skills required in professional practice. Students may spend the whole time in a single placement or complete two semester-length placements in different areas. Placements may be undertaken in public or private laboratories in South Australia, or interstate or overseas with approval.

## Research opportunities

High achieving students may be eligible to undertake Honours as part of the four-year program, which can lead to opportunities to continue on to PhD studies and specialised research, both at UniSA's Sansom Institute and other universities and research organisations.

## Entry requirements

For information on entry requirements, see:

- The program website at [www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/program.asp?Program=IBBL](http://www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/program.asp?Program=IBBL)
- UniSA's Medical and Health Sciences booklet
- The School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences website at [www.unisa.edu.au/pmbs](http://www.unisa.edu.au/pmbs)

## How do I apply?

Australian citizens and permanent residents apply through the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC). For more information see [www.satac.edu.au](http://www.satac.edu.au)

International students apply through the University's International Office. For more information see [www.unisa.edu.au/prospective](http://www.unisa.edu.au/prospective)

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