



## Microbiologist

Microbiologists study micro-organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites.

### Their work may involve:

- Identifying micro-organisms (tiny living things you can't see with the eye e.g. bacteria, fungi, viruses) that cause disease and advising doctors on treatment
- Running clinical trials of new drugs which kill or prevent growth of microorganisms
- Investigating uses of micro-organisms to produce important drugs e.g. antibodies, steroids or vaccines
- Helping with food production e.g. using yeast for bread making, producing yoghurt or cheese

### How they work:

Microbiologists generally work in a team with other scientists, including geneticists, biochemists, molecular biologists and chemical engineers. They usually work a standard 37 hour week, but may work shifts to cover 24 hours a day.

### Where they work:

Many microbiologists work in laboratories, which may be in hospitals or factories, or out in the field. Employers include hospitals, universities, the National Blood Service and the Health Protection Agency; industry, including pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, food and drink, consumer goods and the water industry; biotechnology companies and food research associations; government agencies and research establishments.

### Other related jobs in this field:

Dietician, health and safety inspector, nutritionist, analytical chemist, bacteriologist, biochemist, biologist, biomedical scientist, biotechnologist, chemist, clinical engineer, cosmetic scientist, cytologist, food scientist, forensic scientist, geneticist, haematologist, immunologist, laboratory technician, toxicologist.

For a more detailed description link to:

<https://nextstep.direct.gov.uk/planningyourcareer/jobprofiles/JobProfile0721/Pages/default.aspx>