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A look inside Lucigen and what it's like to work in a biotechnology lab.

A career in biotechnology requires scientific knowledge, hands on lab experience and strong communication skills. Employers are seeking candidates who are detail oriented and who have organizational and problem solving abilities.

Lucigen is a company that is developing innovative new products for next gen sequencing, DNA cloning and for protein expression. I look at real laboratory hands on experience. That to me is an indication of somebody who is really ready to do high quality laboratory work.

I graduated last May. I got hired on here full time. My favorite course was molecular biology 1, working with DNA, plasmids, just the hands on aspect of it really excited me and that's what I do here everyday at Lucigen.

Scientists doing research have a piece of DNA that they're trying to study and they'll insert it into the cells that I make. I am part of a production team that works together to plan, scheduling, and make sure we can use each other's resources, but for the most part, I am working individually. Majority of my day is spent in the lab. I dilute the cells into our covered media and then I plate them, incubate them overnight at 37 degrees and it results in colonies spread out over the plate which I will count and then I can get a transformation efficiency on the cells that I made. I inoculate cultures to grow cells and then I harvest those cells and use them to make a product. I do have some desk work, getting documentation up to par, creating documents to track what I do throughout the day, lot numbers and just making sure we're doing everything to the highest quality that would possibly can.

Technician coming in to a company like Lucigen, they're very well trained and have a very good professional attitude about doing laboratory work.

Right now, I have a plate of growing cells here and it's been about a week or so. So to maintain the health and the viability, I'm re-streaking these out onto fresh media and it will be placed in an incubator, 37 degrees and allowed to grow. This is actually for research and development. A greener fuel is the very end product.

We're a very hands on organization. The students that will fit our need, they're ready to go day one. We don't really have to teach them how to use the balance. We don't have to teach them how to use a pH meter and they have recognition of the importance to do those, the right way.



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