

Midlands Life Sciences/ BioPharma Sector



SECTORAL OVERVIEW

SKILLS & TALENT

Midlands Life Sciences / BioPharma

The Life Sciences sector, including BioPharma, is a significant and growing force in Midlands Ireland. The region has a long-standing presence of leading Pharma, BioTech, and Medical Device companies, benefiting from its central location, strong connectivity, and a skilled workforce. The Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) plays a crucial role, with its focus on Life Sciences and its accreditation in Pharmaceutical Sciences. This supports a robust ecosystem for MedTech and Medical Devices, attracting investment. While Ireland as a whole is a global leader in BioPharma, with substantial foreign direct investment in new facilities, the Midlands is emerging as a key regional hub. Companies like Novo Nordisk have made significant investments in the area, contributing to the sector's growth.

Manufacturing Sub-Sectors

- Pharmaceuticals
- Biotechnology
- Diagnostics
- Digital Health
- Medical Devices
- Contract Research

Employment Overview

The Midlands region has a strong Life Sciences sector, with companies like Alexion, Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Jazz Pharmaceuticals (in Athlone), Abbott (Longford), and Zoetis (Tullamore) having operations there. The Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) in the Midlands has a strong focus on Life Sciences, including an accredited Pharmaceutical Sciences program, which contributes to the skilled workforce in the region.

Course Finders



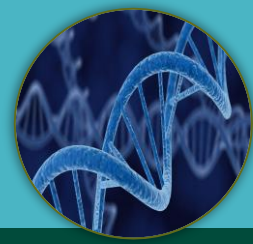
Top ten employment roles in demand:

- Process Engineers** Expertise in areas like biopharmaceutical process equipment, fill-finish, and aseptic manufacturing.
- Quality Control (QC) & Quality Assurance (QA) Professionals** (Analysts, Specialists, and Managers).
- Automation & MES Engineers**
- Validation Specialists**
- Manufacturing Technicians**
- Analytical Chemists**
- Project Managers/Engineers**
- Supply Chain Professionals**
- Research & Development Scientists/Engineers**
- Maintenance & Reliability Technicians**

Top ten key upskilling areas in demand:

- Digital Transformation and Pharma 4.0 Technologies** - Automation & Robotics, Data Analytics & AI/Machine Learning, Internet of Things (IoT) & Connectivity.
- Advanced Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing** - Biologics Manufacturing, Aseptic Processing & Sterile Manufacturing, Fill-Finish Operations.
- Regulatory Affairs & Compliance (GMP, GxP)**
- Process Development & Optimization (Lean/Six Sigma)**
- Validation & Qualification** – Equipment, Process, Cleaning.
- Supply Chain Management & Logistics**
- Project Management**
- Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) & Sustainability** – Green Biopharma.
- Research & Development in Advanced Therapies** - Cell and Gene Therapies & Advanced Medicinal Products.
- Transversal Skills** - Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking, Communication & Collaboration, Adaptability & Continuous Learning, Leadership & Teamwork.

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SUPPORTS

IDA Ireland - An investment promotion agency, plays a crucial role in attracting foreign investment in the life sciences sector, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and biotechnology. Promotes Ireland as a global hub for life science innovation and helps companies establish operations and expand their businesses in the country.

Irish Science and Technology Innovation Fund (ISIF) - ISIF is a fund that provides investment to Irish life science companies. ISIF focuses on supporting innovation and growth in areas like diagnostics, therapeutics, and digital health.

The Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) represents employers in Ireland and actively advocates for the interests of the life science and health technology sectors. IBEC promotes the National Life Sciences Strategy, which aims to strengthen Ireland's position as a global leader in health innovation.

National Institute for Bioprocessing Research & Training (NIBRT) - State-of-the-art training facilities offer trainees a realistic simulated training environment not previously possible anywhere in the world and prepares trainees for real-life work situations. Short courses, customised industry training, on demand online training.

Apprenticeship.ie - Promotes and facilitates apprenticeships. Apprenticeship opportunities coordinated by LOETB and LWETB. Apprenticeship programs funded by SOLAS..

LEOs – Local Enterprise Offices - First-stop shops for businesses, providing a range of support services to help entrepreneurs start, grow, and develop their businesses. They offer advice, information, financial assistance, and training to both new and existing businesses.

Enterprise Ireland - Irish state agency that supports the development and growth of Irish enterprises in international markets. They provide funding, advisory, and development support to help Irish businesses start, grow, innovate, and win export sales.

Skillnet Ireland - Skillnet Ireland is the national agency dedicated to the promotion and facilitation of workforce learning in Ireland. Their mission is to facilitate increased participation in enterprise training and workforce learning within Ireland's small and medium enterprises (SME).

AVAILABILITY OF REGIONAL GRADUATES

The Careers & Employability service at TUS provides a link with companies and organisations that wish to recruit graduates and students at all levels. We welcome enquiries from employers and are pleased to discuss the specific requirements of any potential employer for our graduates and students.



In 2024 TUS: Midlands awarded 117 advanced degrees in Natural Sciences, 33 in Pharmacy, and 244 in Manufacturing/ Engineering trades.

Visit the TUS Athlone
Campus Careers
Connect Portal

[Click Here](#)

MIDLANDS REGIONAL SKILLS FORUM

SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Skills & Talent Assessments
- Signposting to Education & Training
- Regional Event Planning and Participation
- Facilitation to Cluster Membership
- Guidance to Funding Opportunities



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