

Graduate training program in large Bioscience company.

Much training will be specific and related to the particular requirements of the job (e.g. use of a new piece of kit, knowledge about a new area of scientific interest). The ability to identify yourself, your own training needs is important.

Particular areas where training is provided are:

Statistics. Very important. Run by company statisticians and utilise company specific software in the courses. Also these courses allow graduates to meet the statisticians who they will (should) collaborate with when designing and analysing experiments.

Cell culture - a generic skill required in many bioscience research posts.

IT training and communication skills. Both on standard software packages and on the in-house systems many of which are very sophisticated. Communication skills at all levels and utilising all methods are important.

Documentation. Emphasising the company style and the importance of lab books (to establish audit trail and intellectual rights) and report writing.

Safety. Both generic and specialised. These courses are mandatory even if individuals have been through them before. Each company will do things slightly differently. Safety rules are safety RULES.

Lots of other training is on the job. A company might expect but would not assume that graduates can use basic lab equipment (e.g. pipettes) and would be aware that the type of equipment might be very different from that familiar to graduates straight from universities.