



Medical Laboratory Scientist ANZSCO 2346-11

Australia
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Current labour market rating – No shortage

Employers recruit medical laboratory scientists with ease, with most having the option to select between multiple suitable applicants. While the demand for these professionals is strong, the number of students completing medical science degrees is at a record high and supply is more than adequate.

Key issues¹

- Large applicant numbers are a key feature of this labour market (Figure 1) and employers typically recruited without difficulty in 2018.
- The small number of employers with unfilled vacancies either attracted suitable applicants who accepted work elsewhere, or required specific high-level experience or qualifications in genetics or histopathology.
- Employers commonly sought applicants with experience in a particular medical science specialisation. Applicants who did not possess this experience were often deemed unsuitable, with experience generally not considered transferable across specialisations.
- Recent graduates were commonly regarded as unsuitable because they lacked the required experience.
- Employers recruiting for senior positions often required applicants with postgraduate qualifications.
- The demand for these professionals has strengthened over the past few years, with employment and the number of advertised vacancies rising over this period.
 - Of influence has been a rising number of pathology tests undertaken in recent years.
- Nonetheless, supply has also increased strongly, with the number of people undertaking medical science degrees up significantly over the five years to 2016 (Figure 2).
- Employment outcomes for medical science graduates are weak. In 2017, 56.0 per cent were employed full-time four months after graduating (not necessarily in their field of study), well below the average of 71.8 per cent for all graduates.

2018 Survey results



Figure 1: Survey results time series, 2012 to 2018

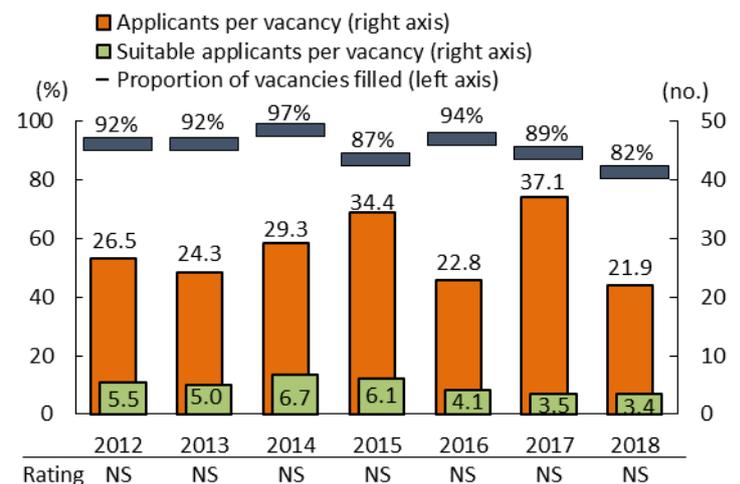
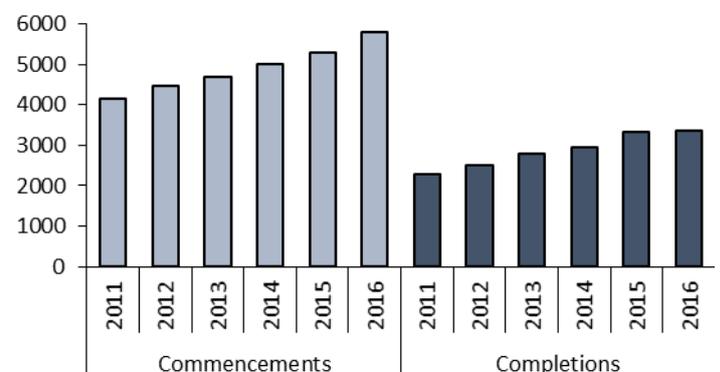


Figure 2: Higher education commencements and completions, Medical science, 2011 to 2016



¹ The methodology underpinning this research is outlined at [Skill Shortage Research Methodology | Department of Jobs and Small Business - Document library, Australian Government](#). Additional data sources: ABS, Labour Force, May 2018, Department of Jobs and Small Business trend; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Internet Vacancy Index, April 2018, 12 month moving average; Department of Education and Training, Higher Education Statistics (domestic undergraduate and postgraduate students); Medicare Australia, Medicare Group Reports, 12 month moving average; QILT, Graduate Outcomes Survey, 2017 (figures are a proportion of those available for full-time employment)