

Pippa Russell

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Biomedical Sciences student at Newcastle University with industry and research-based laboratory experience seeking a career as a microbiologist.

Education

2022 – 2025 BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences, Newcastle University

Relevant modules include: microbiology and immunology, cell and molecular biology of the immune system, clinical immunology and viral pathogens, immunology of health and disease.

- Completed practical laboratory sessions related to genetic analysis, including modifying and analysing recombinant plasmids, bacterial transformation, restriction enzyme cloning, PCR and electrophoresis analysis.
- Performed lab techniques such as SDS-PAGE, western blotting, ELISA and spectrophotometry.
- Methodically solved statistical and mathematical problems, such as calculating serial dilutions, concentrations, transformation efficiency and plotting and interpreting standard curves.
- Researched, analysed and wrote up the results of a 5,000 word research project into seed and pollen borne plant viruses. Delivered a presentation on the project and answered questions from academics and fellow students.

2015 – 2022 Fen Hall School, Carlisle

A Levels: Biology (A) Chemistry (A) Psychology (A).

10 GCSEs: Grades 9 - 5.

Related Experience

Jun – Sep 2024 Assistant Laboratory Technician, Bio Branch Systems Manchester

- Prepared soil samples for testing. Logged, sorted and dispatched samples to relevant onsite laboratories, ensuring labelling and record keeping was accurate.
- Analysed and performed laboratory tests on soil samples, recording and interpreting data. Worked with accuracy and precision to gain reliable results.
- Ensured my working area was clean and tidy, taking care to follow health and safety protocol and wear the correct PPE at all times.
- Produced a report and delivered a presentation to senior colleagues at the end of my internship on recommendations on how to improve productivity when processing soil samples.

Oct 2023 – May 2024 Laboratory Assistant, Newcastle University

- Worked in a research environment performing routine lab protocols such as PCR, gel electrophoresis, preparing culture media and sterilising equipment.

- Maintained cell culture lines on various selective media whilst observing aseptic technique protocols.
- Practiced strict health and safety procedures in the laboratory, using the correct equipment appropriately and according to task.
- Managed my time effectively when scheduling regular lab work in between lectures and degree commitments.

Jun 2023 – Oct 2023 Patient Liaison Volunteer, NHS Carlisle

- Spoke to patients about the care they were receiving and encouraged them to speak up about any concerns.
- Liaised with ward staff to arrange the most suitable times to speak to patients, ensuring not to interfere with treatment or visiting times.
- Collated opinions from patient surveys into a report and provided feedback to hospital staff on my findings.

Additional Work Experience

Jul 2021 – Aug 2022 Customer Support Adviser, Border Forest Holidays Carlisle

- Handled calls and emails from customers, provided information on services, answered queries and managed any complaints.
- Managed records for over 150 individual customers a month, efficiently inputting data into a CRM system.
- Edited call centre scripts and made suggestions to management on how the changes could cut down the length of time spent handling customer care calls. The edits were implemented and as a result cut customer waiting times down by over 15%.

Achievements

- Supported a group of first year students as a Student Peer Mentor. Helped students to make the transition into their first year of university easier by providing support with academic work, leading campus tours and organising social events.
- Awarded an Endowed Prize by Newcastle University for exceptional academic performance in my first year.

Additional Skills

- IT – proficient in Microsoft Office, including Excel, PowerPoint, Word and Access, Minitab, Labtutor, PowerLab.
- Full clean driving licence.

References

Academic: Dr Monty Wood, University Lecturer, Biomedical Sciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU, 019 208 6000, monty.wood@ncl.ac.uk

Previous employer: Dr Megan Hollies, Laboratory Manager, Bio Branch Systems, Manchester, M10 9TA, 016 2708 2108, m.hollies@biobranchsystems.com