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## **Venturing into biosciences industry** [YOUR PERSONAL ADVISER: CAREER]

**Q** I graduated from the Singapore Polytechnic with a diploma in polymer technology. I am now a laboratory technician in a manufacturing company.

I hope to venture into the biomedical sciences industry but I do not have any biology background. I plan to upgrade myself with a certificate in foundation science first, followed by a degree.

What are the jobs in the market that can also provide me with a background in biology?

**A** Considering your current qualifications and job experience, it will be difficult, though not impossible, for you to venture into the biosciences field.

It is a good idea to upgrade yourself with the necessary qualifications. When choosing a course, look out for one that offers plenty of exposure to laboratory work. If possible, speak to graduands from the course to find out about their career paths and if the course helped them achieve their career goals.

In the biosciences field, it is important to have knowledge of laboratory work and equipment. A good relevant degree would also help you secure an entry-level position in a pharmaceutical or biosciences company.

In the meantime, you may want to consider applying to companies in the food or chemical industry as a stepping stone to the biosciences sector.

These sectors generally accept candidates with laboratory experience but not necessarily in biosciences. They may also provide you with more opportunities to go into the biosciences arena later.



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Advice provided in this column is not meant as a substitute for comprehensive professional advice. E-mail questions to [lorna@sph.com.sg](mailto:lorna@sph.com.sg)