



MARINE BIOLOGIST

JOB DESCRIPTION

Marine biologists study life within the world's seas and oceans, conducting research in both the water and in the laboratory to analyze how plants and animals are affected by changes in the environment, some of which are caused by human activities. They often specialize in studying one species of animal or plant and may travel the world to study its habitats and feeding patterns.



SALARY

Junior marine biologist ★★☆☆☆

Senior marine biologist ★★☆☆☆

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Growth opportunities in sectors including pollution control, biotechnology, and aquaculture • Work available across the world • Competitive job market

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **MICROBIOLOGIST** *see pp. 138–139*
- ▶ **ECOLOGIST** *see pp. 172–173*
- ▶ **BIOCHEMIST** Investigates chemical reactions that take place in living organisms. Areas of research include DNA, proteins, drugs, allergies, and disease.
- ▶ **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATIONIST** Works to protect and manage the natural environment in locations such as forests, deserts, and coastal areas.
- ▶ **OCEANOGRAPHER** Conducts scientific research related to the oceans and seas, and how they interact with rivers, glaciers, and the atmosphere. Oceanographers work in waste management, offshore wind farms, coastal construction, and for oil and water companies.

Ocean covers 71 percent of the Earth's surface, but we have explored only 10 percent of them.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Marine life • Oceanography • Palaeontology • Conservation • Biology • Geography • Geology • Chemistry



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A degree in a relevant subject, such as marine biology, zoology, or oceanography, is required.



LIFESTYLE Work hours are often irregular. Field trips are commonplace and may require long-distance travel, often at short notice.



LOCATION Long days at sea are normal when collecting data on field trips, but much of the work is based in a laboratory or an office.



THE REALITIES Activities such as diving and working on board ships are exciting but also physically demanding, and may be dangerous at times.

SKILLS GUIDE



An innovative approach to researching new food products and production techniques.



Good analytical skills to assess products for quality and to develop new processes.



Strong computer skills for recording and analyzing research and development.



The perseverance to conduct multiple experiments and produce numerous sample products.



Attention to detail and precision in handling tasks, such as labeling food and checking hygiene.



FOOD PRODUCTION MANAGER

Sets and monitors quality standards in processed food and oversees food production, ensuring that the items leaving a factory or processing plant meet the appropriate standards.



FOOD MARKETING MANAGER

Presents and markets food products to the public. The job involves close collaboration with market researchers, packaging designers, and advertising teams.



ACADEMIC FOOD RESEARCHER

Conducts research into areas such as food production, storage, and processing. Academic food researchers may also teach at colleges and universities.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Food science and technology • Food production • Consumer research • Engineering • Chemistry • Biology



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

A degree in a food-related subject, such as food technology, biology, or chemistry, is required.



LIFESTYLE

Food scientists usually work normal hours, but they may also work shifts to check food manufacturing production lines.



LOCATION

As well as working in laboratories, food scientists may have to travel to factories and production lines, and to meet suppliers.



THE REALITIES

As the work involves repetitive quality checks and experiments, food scientists may spend many hours in a laboratory.

▼ RELATED CAREERS

▶ **BIOTECHNOLOGIST** *see pp. 136–137*

▶ **MICROBIOLOGIST** *see pp. 138–139*

▶ **BIOCHEMIST** Conducts scientific research into chemical reactions in living organisms in order to study the effects of drugs, foods, and disease on cells, protein, and DNA.

▶ **CONSUMER SCIENTIST** Conducts research and advises companies on consumer preferences. Consumer scientists work with industries dealing in food, marketing, advertising, and publishing, and also with government departments.

▶ **DIETICIAN** Diagnoses and treats diet-related health problems, advising on nutrition, weight loss or gain, and general eating habits.