

Press Release

2 March 2016

London Met to offer industry level qualification putting graduates ahead of the job market

- **London Met becomes the capital's only university to offer industry standard Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) Certificate of Competence training**
- **London Met opens London's only haematology training lab for biomedical science students.**
- **£180,000 spent on the lab to get it to NHS Hospital Laboratory standard**
- **Students will have professional training before graduating, making graduates more employable and putting them ahead of the competition**

London Met's School of Human Sciences has built the capital's first simulation 'hot lab' to train students in a real life laboratory environment.

The lab has been designed to enable students to build part of their Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) Certificate of Competence, the industry certificate required to be a registered biomedical scientist. This is part of the University's commitment to improving student outcomes with the addition of work related learning on every course offered.

Normally, graduates would not begin training for the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) certificate, however London Met students will graduate with it.

To qualify for the HCPC certificate candidates must have an IBMS accredited degree, offered by London Met, and must complete an IBMS Registration Training Portfolio. Traditionally the training portfolio begins once the student has graduated and enters the work place.

Through working in the new lab, London Met students will complete almost one third of their training portfolio before graduating, putting them ahead of the curve in experience and training, costing less for prospective employers to train and ensuring they complete the certificate more quickly. London Met is proud to be the only university in London to offer this provision to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

The University has invested £180,000 on transforming the classroom into a working, hospital testing laboratory. The laboratory has been equipped with industry standard microscopes, fridges and testing equipment to train students to perform full blood counts, clinical biochemical assays and transfusion investigations. It also houses an

interactive CTOUCH smart screen which connects directly to the state of the art microscopes so students can examine microscopic plates on a large scale.

MSc Blood Science course leader Sean Frost said: “This lab is a fantastic addition to our already impressive laboratory teaching facilities and will enable our students to practice diagnostic science through experiential learning.

“Students will perform the same investigations, to a comparable standard that and NHS Biomedical Scientist does.”

The lab is currently being used by students studying for their masters and will be opened up to second and third year biomedical science students in September 2016.

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About London Metropolitan University

London Met has been providing education to people from all backgrounds since 1848, with the creation of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Working Men.

Four faculties teach cutting-edge, relevant courses across the arts, sciences, business, law and humanities. Accelerator – London Met’s specialist business incubator – helps graduates get their enterprises up and running and was named among the Top Five ‘Most Active’ accelerators in Europe in 2015, highlighting its contribution to London’s booming start-up industry.

London Met is home to world-leading academics who regularly give expert comment to the media. The University scored well in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, being ranked 4th in the country for Area Studies and performing strongly in Education and Social Studies.

The University is strongly focused on employability. In 2015, London Met recorded its highest ever graduate employment score, with 91.1% of all 2013/14 graduates in work or further study six months after graduation.

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