

Case Study

Rhys Archer, Laboratory Technician
Advanced Level Apprenticeship – Level 3
Eisai Manufacturing Ltd (EML)



Tell us about your apprenticeship?

Since starting my apprenticeship in September 2017 I have progressed well and developed a range of fantastic new skills. There are a vast amount of opportunities for development whilst working for Eisai.

I enjoy working with a great range of different people at Eisai and being involved with a variety of different tasks. This ensures I am constantly learning new things and gaining new knowledge about the role of Quality Control in Eisai. I enjoy working with a team of people that are friendly and supportive during the course of my apprenticeship.

How have your skills been developed?

I have developed my lab housekeeping skills as I deal with the waste and cleaning of glassware. There are different types of waste that need to be disposed in different ways, such as cytotoxic, non-chlorinated and powdered waste. I have also become competent in the testing of all the packaging materials and this is my biggest responsibility. I have started to test some raw materials as well and have been trained in testing Opadry, multiple APIs and empty capsules.

I have also improved my team working skills and the ability of communicating with different departments. This is essential within Quality Assurance, because we they approve any paperwork for raw materials to make sure it is okay to release and the warehouse as they get samples delivered to them.

Tell us about your role?

I was surprised by the number of day to day responsibilities and tasks involved in the apprenticeship role. The tests I do vary depending on the state of the product, such as whether it is raw material or bulk, or whether it is a packaging component. This means the days consist of a varying amount of tasks and responsibilities as the incoming materials vary on different days.

My day to day responsibilities includes performing identification checks using the IR on packaging and raw materials. This measures the transmission and is shown by a spectrum, it is then compared to standard to check that it meets specification. A report is then printed which contains the spectra graph (the details of the material tested).

What does the future hold?

I would like to continue to develop my knowledge of testing new raw materials and swabbing more areas of the production area. This will continue to increase my knowledge of working within a pharmaceutical company and give me new skills to apply to any procedures I learn.

Eisai is a leading global research and development-based pharmaceutical company headquartered in Japan. With over 10,000 employees working across its our global network of R&D facilities, manufacturing sites and marketing subsidiaries, Eisai strives to realise its human health care philosophy by delivering innovative products in therapeutic areas with high unmet medical needs, including oncology and neurology.

Eisai is a member of the Science Industry Partnership which works in partnership with government to establish the skills needed to build a high value, competent scientific workforce