ICTQual AB

Qualification Specification

Level 3 Diploma in Biotechnology Engineering 60 Credits – 6 Months

Website
www.ictqualab.co.uk

Email:
Support@ictqualab.co.uk

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Qualification Specifications about

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About ICTQual AB

ICTQual AB UK Ltd. is a distinguished awarding body based in the United Kingdom, dedicated to fostering excellence in education, training, and skills development. Committed to global standards, ICTQual AB provides internationally recognized qualifications that empower individuals and organizations to thrive in an increasingly competitive world. Their offerings span diverse industries, including technical fields, health and safety, management, and more, ensuring relevance and adaptability to modern workforce needs.

The organization prides itself on delivering high-quality educational solutions through a network of Approved Training Centres worldwide. Their robust curriculum and innovative teaching methodologies are designed to equip learners with practical knowledge and skills for personal and professional growth. With a mission to inspire lifelong learning and drive positive change, ICTQual AB continuously evolves its programs to stay ahead of industry trends and technological advancements.

ICTQual AB's vision is to set benchmarks for educational excellence while promoting inclusivity and integrity. Their unwavering focus on quality and accessibility makes them a trusted partner in shaping future-ready professionals and advancing societal progress globally.

Course Overview

The ICTQual Level 3 Diploma in Biotechnology Engineering (60 Credits – 6 Months) is a professionally curated qualification designed to advance learners' understanding and practical skills in biotechnology. This program bridges foundational knowledge with advanced concepts, equipping learners to excel in academic, research, and industry settings. The qualification is particularly suited for those aiming to contribute to biotechnology applications in healthcare, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and environmental sciences.

This diploma provides an in-depth exploration of key areas, including advanced microbiology, genetic engineering, bioprocessing techniques, laboratory instrumentation, and bioethics. It emphasizes hands-on laboratory experience and the application of regulatory standards, ensuring that learners acquire both technical competence and a strong understanding of industry best practices. Learners will also develop analytical and problem-solving skills, enabling them to tackle complex challenges in the biotechnology sector.

Upon successful completion, graduates are well-prepared to progress to higher-level qualifications, such as Level 4 or 5 programs, or to pursue career opportunities in roles like laboratory technicians, quality analysts, or research assistants. This qualification serves as a vital step in fostering professional growth and meeting the demands of the biotechnology industry.

Certification Framework

Qualification title	ICTQual Level 3 Diploma in Biotechnology Engineering 60 Credits – 6 Months
Course ID	BE0004
Qualification Credits	60 Credits
Course Duration	6 Months
Grading Type	Pass / Fail
Competency Evaluation	Coursework / Assignments / Verifiable Experience
Assessment	The assessment and verification process for ICTQual qualifications involves two key stages: **Internal Assessment and Verification:** ✓ Conducted by the staff at the Approved Training Centre (ATC). Ensures learners meet the required standards through continuous assessments. ✓ Internal quality assurance (IQA) is carried out by the centre's IQA staff to validate the assessment processes. **External Quality Assurance:** ✓ Managed by ICTQual AB verifiers, who periodically review the centre's assessment and IQA processes. ✓ Verifies that assessments are conducted to the required standards and ensures consistency across centres

Entry Requirements

To enroll in the ICTQual Level 3 Diploma in Biotechnology Engineering 60 Credits – 6 Months, candidates must meet the following entry requirements:

- ✓ A minimum of a Level 2 qualification (e.g., GCSEs, NVQ Level 2, or equivalent). A background in biology, chemistry, or science-related subjects is highly recommended, as these provide a solid foundation for understanding biotechnology engineering concepts.
- ✓ Minimum age of 16 years to enroll in the course.
- ✓ Proficiency in English, as the course involves technical terminology, written assignments, and effective communication in scientific and engineering contexts.
- ✓ Basic computer skills, which are essential for completing assignments, projects, or research that may involve data analysis, simulations, or the use of specialized biotechnology software.
- ✓ While not mandatory, prior exposure to biological sciences, chemistry, or laboratory-based work can be beneficial for understanding course concepts and enhancing practical learning.

Qualification Structure

This qualification comprises 6 mandatory units, totaling 60 credits. Candidates must successfully complete all mandatory units to achieve the qualification.

Mandatory Units		
Unit Ref#	**Unit Title**	**Credits**
BE0004-1	Introduction to Biotechnology and Engineering Principles	10
BE0004-2	Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics	10
BE0004-3	Bioprocessing and Bio-manufacturing Techniques	10
BE0004-4	Biotechnology Laboratory Techniques and Safety Protocols	10
BE0004-5	Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Applications	10
BE0004-6	Biotechnology Project Management and Professionals	10

Centre Requirements

Even if a centre is already registered with ICTQual AB, it must meet specific requirements to deliver the ICTQual Level 3 Diploma in Biotechnology Engineering 60 Credits – 6 Months. These standards ensure the quality and consistency of training, assessment, and learner support.

1. Approval to Deliver the Qualification

- ✓ Centres must obtain formal approval from ICTQual AB to deliver this specific qualification, even if they are already registered.
- ✓ The approval process includes a review of resources, staff qualifications, and policies relevant to the program.

2. Qualified Staff

- ✓ **Tutors:** Must have relevant qualifications in electrical engineering or construction at Level 4 or higher, alongside teaching/training experience.
- ✓ **Assessors:** Must hold a recognized assessor qualification and demonstrate expertise in civil engineering
- ✓ **Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs):** Must be appropriately qualified and experienced to monitor the quality of assessments.

3. Learning Facilities

Centres must have access to appropriate learning facilities, which include:

- ✓ **Classrooms:** Modern classrooms equipped with multimedia tools to deliver engaging theoretical instruction on structural design, construction methods, and sustainable engineering practices.
- ✓ **Practical Areas**: Hands-on training areas with advanced equipment for material testing, surveying instruments, concrete mixing, and structural analysis, providing practical experience in real-world civil engineering applications.
- ✓ **Technology Access:** High-performance computers with industry-standard software (e.g., AutoCAD, STAAD.Pro, Revit, and GIS tools) and reliable internet connectivity for drafting, modeling, and project management tasks.

4. Health and Safety Compliance

- ✓ Centres must ensure that practical training environments comply with relevant health and safety regulations.
- ✓ Risk assessments must be conducted regularly to maintain a safe learning environment.

5. Resource Requirements

- ✓ Learning Materials: Approved course manuals, textbooks, and study guides aligned with the curriculum.
- ✓ Assessment Tools: Templates, guidelines, and resources for conducting and recording assessments.
- ✓ E-Learning Systems: If offering online or hybrid learning, centres must provide a robust Learning Management System (LMS) to facilitate remote delivery.

6. Assessment and Quality Assurance

- ✓ Centres must adhere to ICTQual's assessment standards, ensuring that all assessments are fair, valid, and reliable.
- ✓ Internal quality assurance (IQA) processes must be in place to monitor assessments and provide feedback to assessors.
- ✓ External verification visits from ICTQual will ensure compliance with awarding body standards.

7. Learner Support

- ✓ Centres must provide learners with access to guidance and support throughout the program, including:
- ✓ Academic support for coursework.
- ✓ Career guidance for future progression.
- ✓ Additional support for learners with specific needs (e.g., disabilities or language barriers).

8. Policies and Procedures

Centres must maintain and implement the following policies, as required by ICTQual:

- ✓ Equal Opportunities Policy.
- ✓ Health and Safety Policy.
- ✓ Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.
- ✓ Complaints and Appeals Procedure.
- ✓ Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy.

9. Regular Reporting to ICTQual

- ✓ Centres must provide regular updates to ICTQual AB on learner enrollment, progress, and completion rates.
- ✓ Centres are required to maintain records of assessments and learner achievements for external auditing purposes.

Support for Candidates

Centres should ensure that materials developed to support candidates:

- ✓ Facilitate tracking of achievements as candidates progress through the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.
- ✓ Include information on how and where ICTQual's policies and procedures can be accessed.
- ✓ Provide mechanisms for Internal and External Quality Assurance staff to verify and authenticate evidence effectively.

This approach ensures transparency, supports candidates' learning journeys, and upholds quality assurance standards.

Assessment

This qualification is competence-based, requiring candidates to demonstrate proficiency as defined in the qualification units. The assessment evaluates the candidate's skills, knowledge, and understanding against the set standards. Key details include:

1. **Assessment Process:**
   - ✓ Must be conducted by an experienced and qualified assessor.
   - ✓ Candidates compile a portfolio of evidence that satisfies all learning outcomes and assessment criteria for each unit.
2. **Types of Evidence:**
   - ✓ Observation reports by the assessor.
   - ✓ Assignments, projects, or reports.
   - ✓ Professional discussions.
   - ✓ Witness testimonies.
   - ✓ Candidate-produced work.
   - ✓ Worksheets.
   - ✓ Records of oral and written questioning.
   - ✓ Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).
3. **Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria:**
   - ✓ **Learning Outcomes:** Define what candidates should know, understand, or accomplish upon completing the unit.
   - ✓ **Assessment Criteria:** Detail the standards candidates must meet to demonstrate that the learning outcomes have been achieved.

This framework ensures rigorous and consistent evaluation of candidates' competence in line with the qualification's objectives.

Unit Descriptors

BE0004-1. Introduction to Biotechnology and Engineering Principles

The aim of this study unit is to provide students with a foundational understanding of the key concepts, history, and development of biotechnology. The unit seeks to highlight the critical role of engineering in advancing biotechnological applications across diverse industries such as healthcare, agriculture, and environmental science. Students will explore and describe essential biotechnological processes, enhancing their ability to identify and explain their significance. Additionally, the unit emphasizes the importance of ethical considerations, encouraging students to critically assess the impact of ethical issues on biotechnology practices, ensuring responsible and sustainable innovation in the field.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Understand the fundamental concepts and history of biotechnology.	1.1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the foundational principles of biotechnology, including the use of biological organisms, cells, and systems to develop products and processes for various industries such as healthcare, agriculture, and environmental management. 1.2. Explain the history of biotechnology, tracing its origins from ancient practices like fermentation and agriculture to the modern era of genetic engineering, gene therapy, and synthetic biology. 1.3. Identify key milestones in the development of biotechnology, such as the discovery of DNA structure, the development of recombinant DNA technology, and the advent of biotechnology-based medicine. 1.4. Understand the role of biotechnology in the Industrial Revolution, particularly in the context of fermentation processes used for the production of alcohol, antibiotics, and other industrial chemicals. 1.5. Describe the development of biotechnology through the 20th century, highlighting advances in molecular biology, genetic engineering, and the commercialization of biotechnological products. 1.6. Recognize the contributions of pioneering scientists in the field of biotechnology, such as Robert Hooke, Louis Pasteur, and Paul Berg, and their impact on the modern understanding and application of biotechnology. 1.7. Examine the ethical and societal implications of

	biotechnological advancements, discussing the role of biotechnology in addressing global challenges like food security, disease prevention, and environmental sustainability. 1.8. Evaluate the interdisciplinary nature of biotechnology, understanding how it integrates biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, and technology to solve complex problems. 1.9. Explore contemporary developments in biotechnology, such as CRISPR gene editing, personalized medicine, and biopharmaceutical production, and assess their potential for future innovations.
2. Describe the role of engineering in biotechnology and its applications across various industries.	2.1 Explain how engineering principles are applied in biotechnology to design, optimize, and scale processes that involve biological systems, ensuring efficiency, safety, and sustainability in biotechnological operations. 2.2 Describe the role of mechanical engineering in biotechnology, particularly in the design and optimization of bioreactors, fermentation systems, and other biotechnological equipment, ensuring they function at optimal conditions for biological processes. 2.3 Highlight the contributions of chemical engineering in biotechnology, such as the development of chemical processes for bioprocessing, the optimization of production methods for biopharmaceuticals, and the development of sustainable biofuels. 2.4 Illustrate the significance of electrical and electronics engineering in biotechnology, particularly in the design and implementation of automated systems, sensors, and control systems for monitoring and regulating biotechnological processes. 2.5 Discuss the application of civil engineering in biotechnology, particularly in the construction of biotechnology facilities, ensuring compliance with safety and environmental regulations, as well as maintaining the structural integrity of the laboratory or manufacturing plant. 2.6 Explain how bioengineering combines biology, medicine, and engineering to create advanced

	medical devices, tissue engineering solutions, and biocompatible materials for applications in healthcare and medical biotechnology. 2.7 Discuss the role of systems engineering in biotechnology, which focuses on optimizing the integration of complex biological systems, equipment, and processes, ensuring efficiency and reliability in large-scale production environments. 2.8 Identify how biotechnology engineering is used in the agricultural industry to design systems for crop improvement, pest management, and food production, including the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and precision agriculture technologies. 2.9 Describe the impact of biotechnology engineering on environmental applications, such as waste management, bioremediation, and the development of sustainable energy solutions like biofuels and biogas production.
3. Identify and explain key biotechnological processes used in healthcare, agriculture, and environmental science.	3.1 Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental biotechnological processes applied in healthcare, including genetic modification, recombinant DNA technology, and stem cell therapy. 3.2 Identify key biotechnological applications in agriculture, such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), biopesticides, and plant tissue culture techniques. 3.3 Explain the role of biotechnological processes in environmental science, including bioremediation, biofiltration, and the use of biofuels. 3.4 Analyze the mechanisms by which biotechnology is used to develop vaccines, antibiotics, and other therapeutic agents in healthcare. 3.5 Describe the processes involved in genetically altering crops to enhance resistance to pests, diseases, or environmental stress in agriculture. 3.6 Explain how biotechnology contributes to sustainable agriculture practices, such as the development of drought-resistant or nutrient-rich crops. 3.7 Identify how biotechnological innovations in

	healthcare improve diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of diseases. 3.8 Discuss the impact of biotechnological processes on reducing environmental pollution through biological treatment methods and waste management.
4. Assess ethical considerations and their impact on biotechnology practices.	4.1 Evaluate the ethical implications of genetic modification in organisms, considering both the benefits and risks to human health, biodiversity, and the environment. 4.2 Discuss the moral concerns related to cloning, gene editing, and stem cell research, focusing on human rights, dignity, and the potential for unintended consequences. 4.3 Assess the ethical issues surrounding the use of biotechnology in healthcare, such as the fairness of access to genetic treatments and personalized medicine. 4.4 Examine the potential for exploitation and discrimination in biotechnology, especially with regard to genetic testing and data privacy. 4.5 Consider the social and cultural impacts of biotechnological advancements, particularly in areas like genetically modified food and environmental interventions. 4.6 Analyze the role of regulatory bodies in ensuring that biotechnology practices adhere to ethical standards and do not harm vulnerable populations. 4.7 Investigate the ethical considerations of biotechnological research in developing countries, especially in terms of consent, equity, and benefit-sharing. 4.8 Discuss the implications of biotechnology on future generations, including the ethical responsibilities in modifying genetic material and its long-term effects.

BE0004 – 2. Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics

The aim of this study unit is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of cellular structure and function, as well as the molecular mechanisms that underpin genetic processes. The unit will enable students to explain the processes of DNA replication, transcription, and translation, highlighting their significance in cellular biology. Students will also analyze genetic inheritance patterns and the mechanisms of mutation, fostering a deeper understanding of genetic variation. Additionally, the unit aims to equip students with practical skills in molecular genetics techniques, including PCR and gene editing, preparing them to apply these methods effectively in real-world biotechnology applications.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of cell structure and function.	1.1. Identify and describe the structure and components of a typical eukaryotic cell, including the nucleus, cytoplasm, cell membrane, mitochondria, and organelles. 1.2. Explain the functions of key cellular structures, such as the role of the nucleus in genetic material storage and the mitochondria in energy production. 1.3. Demonstrate an understanding of the differences between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, including their structural distinctions and implications for cellular function. 1.4. Analyze the function of the cell membrane in regulating material transport and maintaining homeostasis within the cell. 1.5. Explain the process of protein synthesis, including the roles of ribosomes, endoplasmic reticulum, and Golgi apparatus in protein production and modification. 1.6. Assess the importance of the cytoskeleton in maintaining cell shape, enabling cellular movement, and facilitating intracellular transport. 1.7. Demonstrate an understanding of cellular division processes, such as mitosis and meiosis, and their role in growth, reproduction, and genetic diversity. 1.8. Describe the role of lysosomes and peroxisomes in cellular digestion and detoxification processes. 1.9. Examine the significance of cellular communication and signal transduction

	pathways in maintaining cellular function and responding to external stimuli.
Explain the processes of DNA replication, transcription, and translation in cellular biology.	1.1. Describe the process of DNA replication, including the roles of key enzymes such as helicase, DNA polymerase, and ligase in unwinding, copying, and sealing the DNA strands. 1.2. Explain the semi-conservative nature of DNA replication, where each new DNA molecule consists of one original and one newly synthesized strand. 1.3. Detail the steps of transcription, including the role of RNA polymerase in synthesizing messenger RNA (mRNA) from a DNA template and the processing of pre-mRNA in eukaryotes. 1.4. Explain how transcription factors regulate gene expression and how RNA splicing leads to the formation of mature mRNA. 1.5. Describe the process of translation, focusing on the interaction between mRNA, ribosomes, and transfer RNA (tRNA) to synthesize proteins based on genetic code. 1.6. Identify the key steps of translation: initiation, elongation, and termination, and explain the role of codons, anticodons, and the ribosome in protein synthesis. 1.7. Discuss the role of post-translational modifications in altering the structure and function of newly synthesized proteins. 1.8. Analyze the importance of these processes in cellular functions, including how errors in replication, transcription, or translation can lead to mutations and diseases. 1.9. Explain the regulation of gene expression at the levels of replication, transcription, and translation, and how cells control protein production in response to environmental cues.
Analyze genetic inheritance and the mechanisms of mutation.	1.1. Explain the principles of Mendelian inheritance, including dominant and recessive traits, and the concept of homozygosity and heterozygosity in relation to genotype and

	phenotype. 1.2. Analyze the patterns of inheritance for sex-linked traits, codominance, incomplete dominance, and polygenic inheritance, and how these influence genetic diversity. 1.3. Describe the process of meiosis, including the formation of gametes and the mechanisms of genetic recombination, crossing over, and independent assortment that contribute to genetic variation. 1.4. Examine the role of genetic mutations in altering DNA sequence, including point mutations, insertions, deletions, and frameshift mutations, and their potential effects on protein function. 1.5. Discuss the causes of mutations, including errors in DNA replication, environmental factors such as radiation and chemicals, and viral infections. 1.6. Analyze the different types of mutations, including silent, missense, and nonsense mutations, and how they can impact gene expression and phenotype. 1.7. Explain the role of mutagens in increasing the rate of mutation and their potential impact on human health, including carcinogenesis and genetic disorders. 1.8. Investigate the mechanisms of DNA repair, including base excision repair, nucleotide excision repair, and mismatch repair, and how these systems maintain genomic integrity. 1.9. Assess the implications of genetic mutations in evolution, genetic disorders, and disease inheritance, and how modern genetic technologies are used to detect and manage genetic mutations.
Apply molecular genetics techniques, including PCR and gene editing, in practical scenarios.	1.1. Explain the principles of polymerase chain reaction (PCR), including the roles of primers, DNA polymerase, and thermal cycling in amplifying specific DNA sequences for analysis or further experimentation. 1.2. Demonstrate the application of PCR in various scenarios, such as genetic testing, forensic analysis, and disease diagnosis, emphasizing

	its precision and efficiency in amplifying low quantities of DNA. 1.3. Describe the process of gel electrophoresis and how it is used in conjunction with PCR to separate and visualize DNA fragments based on size, aiding in genetic analysis and mutation detection. 1.4. Discuss the principles and applications of gene editing technologies, such as CRISPR-Cas9, including how they enable precise modifications of the genome to alter gene expression or repair mutations. 1.5. Explain the process of CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing, including guide RNA design, the introduction of double-strand breaks, and the repair mechanisms (non-homologous end joining or homologous recombination). 1.6. Evaluate the practical applications of gene editing in medicine, such as the development of gene therapies for genetic disorders, cancer treatments, and personalized medicine. 1.7. Assess the ethical and safety considerations associated with gene editing, including the potential for off-target effects, unintended consequences, and concerns about germline editing. 1.8. Apply molecular genetics techniques in agricultural biotechnology, such as the development of genetically modified crops with desirable traits like pest resistance or enhanced nutritional content. 1.9. Discuss the role of molecular genetics techniques in environmental science, such as using genetic markers to track biodiversity or to monitor the spread of invasive species.

BE0004– 3. Bioprocessing and Bio-manufacturing Techniques

The aim of this study unit is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the principles and practices involved in bioprocessing and bio-manufacturing within the biotechnology industry. The unit will cover the functions and operations of bioreactors and fermentation processes, emphasizing their importance in large-scale production. Students will evaluate downstream processing methods, focusing on the significance of purification in ensuring the quality of biotechnological products.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Understand the principles of bioprocessing and bio-manufacturing in industrial biotechnology.	1.1. Explain the core principles of bioprocessing, including the use of living organisms or their components (cells, enzymes) to produce valuable products such as pharmaceuticals, biofuels, and food ingredients. 1.2. Describe the different stages of a bioprocess, from upstream processes (cell culture, fermentation) to downstream processes (purification, product recovery) in industrial biotechnology. 1.3. Analyze the role of bioreactors in biomanufacturing, discussing the various types (batch, continuous, fed-batch) and their applications in optimizing product yield and quality. 1.4. Explain the principles of fermentation, including the metabolic pathways used by microorganisms to convert raw materials into desired products, and the factors influencing fermentation efficiency, such as temperature, pH, and nutrient supply. 1.5. Discuss the importance of microbial strain selection and genetic modification in enhancing the efficiency and yield of bioprocesses in industrial biotechnology. 1.6. Assess the methods used in product recovery and purification, such as filtration, chromatography, and centrifugation, and their role in ensuring the purity and quality of the final product. 1.7. Examine the economic and environmental considerations in bioprocessing and bio-manufacturing, including cost-effectiveness, sustainability, and waste management. 1.8. Investigate the role of quality control and

	regulatory compliance in biomanufacturing, ensuring that products meet safety and efficacy standards for their intended use. 1.9. Evaluate the potential for bioprocessing and bio-manufacturing to contribute to sustainable industrial practices, including the production of renewable energy, biodegradable materials, and sustainable chemicals.
2. Describe the function and operation of bioreactors and fermentation processes.	2.1 Explain the function of a bioreactor as a controlled environment for cultivating microorganisms, cells, or enzymes to produce biological products through bioprocessing, emphasizing the role of temperature, pH, and oxygen levels in optimizing growth. 2.2 Describe the different types of bioreactors, including batch, fed-batch, and continuous systems, and analyze their specific applications in industrial biotechnology for maximizing productivity and product yield. 2.3 Discuss the principles of fermentation as a metabolic process in which microorganisms, such as bacteria, yeast, or fungi, convert organic substrates (e.g., sugars) into desired products (e.g., ethanol, antibiotics, or enzymes). 2.4 Explain the steps involved in fermentation, including inoculum preparation, inoculation into the bioreactor, growth phase, product formation, and harvest phase, and how these steps are managed to ensure optimal yields. 2.5 Analyze the key variables that affect fermentation processes, including the nutrient supply, oxygenation, agitation, and waste product accumulation, and the methods used to monitor and control these factors. 2.6 Describe the role of bioreactor design in ensuring efficient mass transfer (oxygen and nutrients) and maintaining sterile conditions to prevent contamination during fermentation. 2.7 Discuss the concept of aerobic vs. anaerobic fermentation, and the different types of microorganisms used in each, such as yeast in anaerobic fermentation for alcohol

	production. 2.8 Examine the role of genetic engineering in optimizing microbial strains used in fermentation, including enhancing their ability to tolerate environmental stress and improve product yield.
3. Evaluate downstream processing methods and the importance of purification in biotechnology.	3.1 Describe the role of downstream processing in biotechnology, emphasizing the importance of isolating and purifying the desired product from complex mixtures after fermentation or bioreactor cultivation. 3.2 Analyze the key stages of downstream processing, including cell harvest, disruption, clarification, concentration, and purification, to remove impurities and enhance the quality of the final product. 3.3 Evaluate different cell harvesting techniques, such as centrifugation and filtration, and their application in separating microbial or mammalian cells from the culture medium. 3.4 Discuss the methods used for cell disruption, including mechanical (e.g., high-pressure homogenization), chemical (e.g., detergents), and enzymatic techniques, and their role in breaking open cells to release intracellular products. 3.5 Examine the importance of clarification processes, such as filtration or centrifugation, in removing cell debris and particulate matter from the product solution. 3.6 Evaluate purification techniques like chromatography (e.g., affinity, ion exchange, and size-exclusion), ultrafiltration, and precipitation, highlighting their effectiveness in separating proteins, nucleic acids, and other biomolecules based on size, charge, or affinity. 3.7 Assess the role of membrane filtration technologies, such as microfiltration and ultrafiltration, in concentrating and purifying biomolecules, and their advantages in maintaining product integrity. 3.8 Discuss the importance of maintaining product integrity during purification, ensuring that the final product is of high quality, safe for use,

	and compliant with regulatory standards.
4. Apply quality control measures and assurance standards in bio-manufacturing processes.	4.1 Describe the importance of quality control (QC) in bio-manufacturing processes, ensuring that the final products meet safety, efficacy, and regulatory standards. 4.2 Explain the key quality control measures in bio-manufacturing, such as raw material testing, in-process monitoring, and final product testing, to ensure consistency and reliability throughout production. 4.3 Discuss the role of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in maintaining high standards of bio-manufacturing, ensuring that production facilities, processes, and personnel adhere to stringent quality and safety guidelines. 4.4 Examine the application of process validation in bio-manufacturing, including the documentation and testing required to confirm that manufacturing processes consistently produce products of the required quality. 4.5 Analyze the use of statistical process control (SPC) tools, such as control charts and process capability analysis, to monitor and optimize bio-manufacturing processes, ensuring process stability and minimizing variability. 4.6 Explore the role of risk management in bio-manufacturing, identifying and mitigating potential risks in production, contamination, and product quality through systematic risk assessment and control measures. 4.7 Assess the importance of environmental monitoring in bio-manufacturing, including the control of air quality, temperature, humidity, and sterile conditions to prevent contamination during the production process. 4.8 Discuss the application of automated systems and technologies in bio-manufacturing, such as real-time monitoring sensors and automated control systems, to ensure accurate data collection and compliance with quality standards.

BE0004-4. Biotechnology Laboratory Techniques and Safety Protocols

The aim of this study unit is to provide students with the practical skills and knowledge required to operate common laboratory equipment and tools used in biotechnology. The unit emphasizes the importance of implementing safety protocols and effective risk management strategies to maintain a safe laboratory environment. Students will gain hands-on experience in conducting essential laboratory procedures, including aseptic cultures, media preparation, and sterilization, ensuring accuracy and safety.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Operate common laboratory equipment and tools used in biotechnology.	1.1. Demonstrate proficiency in using basic laboratory equipment such as pipettes, micropipettes, and graduated cylinders for accurate measurement and transfer of liquids in biotechnology experiments. 1.2. Operate centrifuges to separate components of a sample based on their density, explaining the principles of centrifugal force and the appropriate settings for different types of samples. 1.3. Use spectrophotometers to measure absorbance or transmittance of light by a sample, and explain its application in quantifying biomolecules like proteins, nucleic acids, or cells. 1.4. Apply proper techniques for preparing and maintaining agar plates, Petri dishes, and culture media for microbial growth and cell culture applications, ensuring sterile conditions to prevent contamination. 1.5. Utilize electrophoresis equipment, including gel electrophoresis systems, for separating and analyzing DNA, RNA, or proteins based on their size and charge, and interpret the results. 1.6. Operate incubators and environmental chambers to maintain controlled conditions (temperature, humidity, CO_2) required for cell culture and microbial growth. 1.7. Handle autoclaves for sterilizing laboratory equipment, media, and solutions, ensuring proper temperature, pressure, and time for effective sterilization. 1.8. Use vortex mixers, orbital shakers, and rotary shakers for mixing, agitating, or homogenizing biological samples to ensure uniformity and enhance reaction efficiency. 1.9. Set up and operate PCR machines (thermal cyclers) for amplifying DNA, following the

	necessary protocols for denaturation, annealing, and extension steps.
2. Implement safety protocols and risk management strategies in laboratory environments.	2.1 Demonstrate an understanding of laboratory safety protocols, including the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, lab coats, safety goggles, and face shields to minimize exposure to hazardous materials. 2.2 Implement safe handling and storage procedures for chemicals, reagents, and biological materials, ensuring compliance with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and appropriate labeling requirements. 2.3 Follow guidelines for the safe disposal of biohazardous, chemical, and sharp materials, including using designated containers for waste segregation and ensuring proper disposal methods are followed. 2.4 Adhere to aseptic techniques and sterilization protocols to prevent contamination and ensure the safe handling of microorganisms and cell cultures, reducing the risk of laboratory infections. 2.5 Operate and maintain laboratory equipment with safety in mind, ensuring regular calibration, inspections, and adherence to the manufacturer's safety instructions. 2.6 Conduct risk assessments for laboratory procedures, identifying potential hazards, and implementing strategies to mitigate risks, such as substituting less hazardous materials or using containment systems. 2.7 Establish emergency response plans for laboratory incidents, including spill response, fire evacuation, and first aid procedures, ensuring all personnel are trained and familiar with these protocols. 2.8 Regularly conduct laboratory safety audits to evaluate compliance with safety regulations, identify hazards, and recommend improvements to maintain a safe working environment. 2.9 Promote safe handling and transportation of biological samples, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements for the movement of infectious agents and materials across different

	environments.
3. Conduct laboratory procedures such as aseptic cultures, media preparation, and sterilization with accuracy and safety.	3.1 Demonstrate proper aseptic techniques to prevent contamination during laboratory procedures, including the use of sterile equipment, proper handwashing, and maintaining a sterile field during microbial culture preparation. 3.2 Prepare microbiological media, such as agar plates and liquid broths, by accurately measuring ingredients, ensuring the correct pH, and sterilizing the media via autoclaving or other suitable methods to ensure sterility. 3.3 Perform inoculation techniques, such as streaking, pouring, and spreading, to grow and isolate microorganisms or cells while maintaining a contamination-free environment. 3.4 Utilize sterile techniques when transferring cultures between containers, such as using sterile loops, pipettes, and forceps to prevent cross-contamination and ensure reliable results. 3.5 Implement proper incubation conditions for microbial growth, including selecting appropriate temperatures and environmental factors (e.g., CO_2 levels, humidity) for different types of microorganisms. 3.6 Apply effective sterilization methods, including autoclaving, dry heat, or chemical sterilants, to ensure laboratory equipment, glassware, and media are free from viable organisms before use. 3.7 Safely handle and dispose of contaminated materials, such as used culture plates, petri dishes, and pipettes, by following proper biohazard disposal protocols to minimize risk of exposure. 3.8 Ensure correct documentation of procedures and results, including recording the preparation of media, incubation times, and outcomes of culture experiments, maintaining traceability and accountability. 3.9 Monitor growth conditions and assess culture purity by performing visual checks and using techniques like Gram staining, colony morphology examination, or microscopic evaluation to identify

	and confirm microbial species.
4. Design experiments, record data, and analyze results to draw valid conclusions in biotechnology contexts.	4.1 Develop a clear experimental design that defines the research question, hypothesis, variables (independent, dependent, and controlled), and the methodology to be used, ensuring it is suitable for addressing the research objectives in biotechnology. 4.2 Select appropriate laboratory techniques, tools, and materials based on the specific experimental requirements, ensuring that they are well-suited to the biological systems being studied. 4.3 Establish a detailed protocol outlining the step-by-step procedures, safety precautions, and necessary controls to ensure reproducibility and reliability of the experiment. 4.4 Conduct experiments with accuracy and precision, following the established protocol while monitoring and recording observations at each stage to ensure consistency in data collection. 4.5 Utilize proper methods of data recording, including digital or manual logging of results, ensuring data is organized, accurate, and traceable, and labeling is clear and standardized. 4.6 Analyze experimental data using appropriate statistical methods (e.g., t-tests, ANOVA) to determine the significance of results, recognizing patterns, trends, and potential sources of variability 4.7 Interpret the results of experiments by comparing observed outcomes to expected outcomes based on the hypothesis, and identify any deviations that may require further investigation or adjustment to the experimental approach. 4.8 Draw valid conclusions from the data, considering the implications of the findings in a biotechnology context, and suggesting potential applications or future directions for research based on experimental outcomes. 4.9 Maintain accurate and thorough documentation of experimental procedures, results, analysis, and conclusions to ensure transparency, reproducibility, and adherence to scientific reporting standards.

BE0004-5. Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Applications

The aim of this study unit is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the principles and techniques of genetic engineering, including advanced gene editing technologies such as CRISPR. The unit will enable students to apply genetic engineering methods to modify microorganisms, plants, and animals, exploring their potential for innovation across various sectors. Students will critically evaluate the diverse applications of genetic engineering in fields such as medicine, agriculture, and environmental conservation, highlighting its transformative impact. Additionally, the unit will address the ethical, legal, and regulatory considerations involved in genetic engineering, preparing students to make informed and responsible decisions in their future biotechnology careers.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Describe the principles and techniques of genetic engineering, including gene editing technologies like CRISPR.	1.1. Explain the fundamental principles of genetic engineering, which involve the manipulation of an organism's genome to introduce, remove, or modify specific genes to achieve desired traits or produce specific proteins. 1.2. Describe the process of gene cloning, including the isolation of a target gene, its insertion into a vector (such as a plasmid), and the transformation of host cells to propagate the gene for further study or production. 1.3. Discuss the key techniques in genetic engineering, including polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for amplifying target genes, gel electrophoresis for analyzing DNA fragments, and ligation methods to join DNA sequences together. 1.4. Explore the principles of recombinant DNA technology, where foreign DNA is integrated into an organism's genome, enabling the expression of new traits or production of therapeutic proteins. 1.5. Explain the mechanism of gene editing technologies, such as CRISPR-Cas9, which allows for precise alterations to DNA by targeting specific sequences for cutting and repair, enabling modifications such as gene knockouts or the insertion of new genetic material. 1.6. Discuss the components of the CRISPR-Cas9 system, including the guide RNA (gRNA), which directs the Cas9 protein to the target DNA sequence, and how the system facilitates genome editing by inducing double-strand breaks and utilizing repair pathways like non-homologous end joining or homology-directed repair.

	1.7. Describe other gene editing technologies, such as TALENs (Transcription Activator-Like Effector Nucleases) and ZFNs (Zinc Finger Nucleases), highlighting their mechanisms and uses in targeted genome modification. 1.8. Examine the ethical considerations and potential risks associated with genetic engineering and gene editing, including concerns about off-target effects, unintended consequences, and regulatory challenges in human and environmental applications. 1.9. Discuss the applications of genetic engineering in biotechnology, including the production of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture, the development of gene therapies for genetic disorders, and the creation of recombinant proteins for pharmaceuticals.
2. Apply genetic engineering methods to modify microorganisms, plants, and animals.	2.1 Describe the process of genetically modifying microorganisms, such as bacteria and yeast, to produce valuable products like enzymes, antibiotics, and biofuels, through techniques like transformation, electroporation, or conjugation. 2.2 Apply genetic engineering methods to modify microorganisms by inserting specific genes into plasmids or other vectors and using them to introduce the genetic material into microbial cells, enabling the expression of new traits or proteins. 2.3 Use gene editing tools such as CRISPR-Cas9 to modify the genomes of microorganisms, enabling precise modifications like gene knockout, insertion, or activation to enhance productivity or adapt microbial strains for industrial applications. 2.4 Explain the process of genetically modifying plants, including the use of Agrobacterium-mediated transformation or gene gun methods to introduce foreign genes into plant cells, enabling the development of genetically modified crops with traits like pest resistance, drought tolerance, or improved nutritional content. 2.5 Apply the techniques of plant tissue culture and regeneration to create genetically modified plants, ensuring successful incorporation and expression of new traits in the plant's genome through the use of selectable markers and

	screening methods. 2.6 Discuss the use of CRISPR-Cas9 and other gene editing technologies in plants to precisely modify the plant genome, enabling targeted improvements in growth, yield, resistance to diseases, and environmental adaptation. 2.7 Examine the genetic modification of animals through methods like transgenesis, where foreign DNA is inserted into the genome of an animal to express new traits or produce biopharmaceuticals, and gene editing to achieve precise genetic changes for disease resistance, enhanced productivity, or research purposes. 2.8 Apply somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) or gene editing techniques to create genetically modified animals, such as genetically engineered mice for research or livestock with enhanced growth rates, disease resistance, or improved milk production. 2.9 Discuss the ethical, environmental, and regulatory considerations when modifying microorganisms, plants, and animals, including potential risks such as gene flow to wild populations, unintended ecological effects, and concerns over animal welfare and biodiversity.
3. Evaluate the diverse applications of genetic engineering in fields such as medicine, agriculture, and environmental conservation.	3.1 Evaluate the role of genetic engineering in medicine, particularly in the production of recombinant proteins, such as insulin, growth hormones, and monoclonal antibodies, for the treatment of diseases, highlighting the advantages of biopharmaceuticals over traditional drug production methods. 3.2 Assess the potential of gene therapy, where genetic engineering is used to correct or replace defective genes in human cells, offering treatments for genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, and muscular dystrophy. 3.3 Examine the use of genetic engineering in developing vaccines, including the production of recombinant vaccines (e.g., Hepatitis B) and DNA vaccines, which enable safer, more effective immunization strategies against infectious diseases. 3.4 Explore the applications of genetic engineering in agriculture, focusing on the development of

	genetically modified crops that are resistant to pests, diseases, or environmental stresses, leading to improved crop yield and food security. 3.5 Discuss the genetic modification of crops to enhance nutritional content, such as the creation of Golden Rice, which is enriched with vitamin A to combat nutrient deficiencies in developing countries. 3.6 Analyze the role of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in reducing the need for chemical pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture, potentially reducing environmental pollution and promoting more sustainable farming practices. 3.7 Evaluate the environmental applications of genetic engineering, such as the use of genetically modified microorganisms in bioremediation, where engineered bacteria or fungi are used to break down pollutants or toxins in contaminated environments. 3.8 Assess the potential of genetic engineering in conservation biology, including the use of gene editing to protect endangered species by enhancing resistance to diseases or improving reproductive success in threatened populations. 3.9 Explore the use of genetic engineering in environmental conservation efforts like creating transgenic plants that are more resilient to climate change, drought, or soil erosion, contributing to ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation.
4. Discuss the ethical, legal, and regulatory considerations involved in genetic engineering practices.	4.1 Examine the ethical concerns surrounding genetic engineering, particularly in relation to human gene editing, such as the potential for germline modification and its implications for future generations, raising questions about consent, fairness, and unintended consequences. 4.2 Discuss the moral considerations of genetically modifying animals for research purposes, including concerns about animal welfare, the potential for suffering, and whether genetic modifications in animals are justified for the greater good or scientific advancements. 4.3 Analyze the ethical implications of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture,

	focusing on the safety of GMOs for human consumption, environmental impact, and the potential for unintended crossbreeding with wild species, leading to ecological consequences. 4.4 Explore the debate over intellectual property rights and patenting in genetic engineering, such as who owns the genetic material and the implications for access to genetic resources, particularly in developing countries or for public research. 4.5 Assess the ethical dilemma of genetic enhancement in humans, including the potential for "designer babies" and the societal pressure to pursue genetic modifications for non-medical purposes, such as selecting for certain traits like intelligence or appearance. 4.6 Discuss the legal frameworks governing genetic engineering practices, such as the regulation of GMOs in food and agriculture by organizations like the FDA, EFSA, or the World Health Organization, and the varying standards and guidelines in different countries. 4.7 Examine the regulatory challenges involved in gene editing technologies like CRISPR, including the need for clear guidelines on their safe use in both clinical and research settings, and concerns about off-target effects and unforeseen long-term consequences. 4.8 Explore the role of ethical review boards and regulatory bodies in overseeing genetic engineering experiments, ensuring that research is conducted responsibly and within legal and ethical boundaries, while protecting public health and the environment. 4.9 Discuss the public perception of genetic engineering and the role of informed consent in research and clinical applications, emphasizing the importance of transparent communication, public engagement, and education on the risks and benefits of genetic technologies.

BE0004-6. Biotechnology Project Management and Professional Practice

The aim of this study unit is to equip students with the essential principles and tools of project management, focusing on time management, resource allocation, and ensuring efficient project execution. The unit will enable students to plan, manage, and oversee biotechnology projects from initiation to completion, ensuring that deadlines, budgets, and quality standards are met. Students will develop effective communication skills for working within biotechnology teams, fostering collaboration and professionalism.

Learning Outcome:	Assessment Criteria:
1. Understand the principles and tools of project management, including time management and resource allocation.	1.1. Understand the core principles of project management, including the project life cycle, scope management, and the importance of aligning project objectives with organizational goals to ensure successful project delivery. 1.2. Explain the role of a project manager in overseeing project planning, execution, monitoring, and closing, ensuring that all phases are completed efficiently and within the established timeline and budget. 1.3. Discuss the significance of setting clear project goals, defining deliverables, and establishing project requirements to guide the project team and stakeholders throughout the process. 1.4. Identify and apply key project management tools, such as Gantt charts, project management software (e.g., Microsoft Project, Trello), and work breakdown structures (WBS), to organize and track project tasks, timelines, and resources. 1.5. Explain time management techniques, including task prioritization, scheduling, and milestone setting, to ensure that the project progresses according to the established timeline and any delays are minimized. 1.6. Explore the concept of resource allocation, focusing on how to efficiently distribute both human and material resources across project tasks to optimize productivity and minimize bottlenecks. 1.7. Assess different resource management strategies, including resource leveling, to avoid overloading specific team members or resources and ensure balanced workload distribution across the project. 1.8. Discuss the importance of risk management in

	project planning, identifying potential risks early, and developing mitigation strategies to address issues related to time, cost, quality, and resource constraints..
2. Plan and manage biotechnology projects from initiation to completion, ensuring deadlines and budgets are met.	2.1 Initiate biotechnology projects by defining the project scope, goals, deliverables, and objectives, ensuring alignment with organizational priorities and stakeholder expectations. 2.2 Develop a detailed project plan, outlining key milestones, timelines, and resource requirements, utilizing project management tools such as Gantt charts, timelines, or Kanban boards to visualize progress and tasks. 2.3 Identify and allocate the necessary resources, including personnel, equipment, and funding, to ensure the timely execution of tasks and avoid delays or resource shortages during the project lifecycle. 2.4 Conduct a thorough risk assessment early in the planning phase, identifying potential risks and developing risk mitigation strategies to address challenges related to technological, regulatory, or operational issues within biotechnology projects. 2.5 Implement time management strategies, setting realistic deadlines for each phase of the project, ensuring that timelines are adhered to and adjusting schedules as needed to accommodate unforeseen circumstances without compromising quality. 2.6 Monitor project progress regularly, tracking key performance indicators (KPIs) such as project milestones, resource utilization, and budget adherence, ensuring any deviations are promptly addressed. 2.7 Manage project budgets by estimating costs for labor, equipment, materials, and other expenses, continuously tracking expenditures against the budget to prevent overruns and ensure financial resources are utilized effectively. 2.8 Communicate consistently with stakeholders, including project team members, clients, and senior management, providing regular updates on project status, timelines, resource allocation,

		and addressing any emerging issues.
3. Communicate effectively within biotechnology teams, fostering collaboration and professionalism.	3.1	Promote clear and concise communication within biotechnology teams by establishing channels for regular updates, discussions, and feedback, ensuring all team members are informed about project goals, timelines, and expectations.
	3.2	Facilitate active listening during team meetings, encouraging all members to share their ideas, concerns, and insights, fostering an open environment where diverse viewpoints are valued and considered.
	3.3	Use appropriate communication tools and platforms (e.g., email, video conferencing, collaboration software) to coordinate tasks, share documents, and ensure that important information is accessible to all team members in real time.
	3.4	Foster professionalism by setting expectations for respectful, constructive communication, ensuring that all team members maintain a collaborative and positive attitude, especially in high-pressure or challenging situations.
	3.5	Encourage team collaboration by assigning roles that match each member's strengths and expertise, promoting cross-functional cooperation, and leveraging each member's skills to enhance project outcomes.
	3.6	Provide feedback and guidance to team members in a timely and supportive manner, focusing on both individual and team performance, helping to identify areas for improvement and recognize achievements.
	3.7	Address and resolve conflicts or misunderstandings within the team promptly and professionally, using conflict resolution strategies to maintain a harmonious working environment and prevent negative impacts on project progress.
	3.8	Lead by example in demonstrating strong communication practices, such as transparency, honesty, and accountability, to inspire team members to adopt similar standards and build trust within the team.

4. Demonstrate professional conduct and adhere to ethical standards in biotechnology engineering practice.	4.1 Uphold the highest standards of professional integrity and honesty in all aspects of biotechnology engineering, ensuring transparency in decision-making, reporting, and project execution. 4.2 Adhere strictly to ethical guidelines and codes of conduct set by relevant professional bodies, ensuring compliance with industry standards and legal requirements in all biotechnology practices. 4.3 Demonstrate responsibility in the handling of sensitive data, intellectual property, and proprietary information, respecting confidentiality agreements and protecting the rights of individuals, organizations, and communities. 4.4 Prioritize safety and environmental responsibility by incorporating best practices in laboratory procedures, bio-manufacturing, and fieldwork, ensuring that biotechnology projects do not harm human health, animals, or the environment. 4.5 Show respect for diversity and inclusivity within the workplace, fostering a culture of professionalism where team members are treated fairly and without discrimination, regardless of background or expertise. 4.6 Actively contribute to sustainability efforts by seeking solutions that reduce environmental impact and promote ethical practices in biotechnology engineering, such as minimizing waste and using sustainable resources. 4.7 Ensure the ethical use of genetic technologies, such as gene editing and genetic modification, by adhering to established ethical guidelines and considering the broader societal, environmental, and economic impacts of these innovations. 4.8 Maintain accountability for the outcomes of biotechnology projects, taking responsibility for the ethical implications of decisions made during the project lifecycle and ensuring that outcomes align with ethical considerations and public interest.

ICTQual AB

Yew Tree Avenue, Dagenham,

London East,United Kingdom RM10 7FN

+44 744 139 8083

Support@ictqualab.co.uk | www.ictqualab.co.uk

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