Toxicologist

Job Description
Toxicologists study the biological impact of drugs, toxic chemicals, and radiation on organisms and the environment in order to determine safe limits of dosage and exposure. This evaluation is done through the development of experiments and analysis of the data they yield. Toxicologists aggregate the results of many different studies to inform their risk analyses, reports and recommendations for regulatory agencies.

Core Tasks
- Isolate/identify/measure toxic substances or radiation and determine harmful effects
- Complete a range of experiments exploring biological systems
- Analyze and evaluate statistical data and research scientific literature
- Write reports, scientific papers and sometimes give evidence in court
- Advise on the safe handling of toxic substances and radiation in production or in the event of an accident

Workplace / Environment
- **Work hours**
  - **Approx. 40 hours/week**
  - (At key milestones overtime work may be required to meet deadlines)
- **Environment**
  - Mostly Laboratory or Field work
  - **Office Work** is possible for PhD toxicologists who design experiments
- **Travel**
  - Uncommon but may for collaborative work or conferences

Salary
- **Entry** – $52,227
- **Middle** – $78,631
- **Top** – $109,822

Education / Prerequisites

**Education Level**
An undergraduate degree in chemistry, biology, or a related field is required for entry in the field. A bachelor’s or master’s degree is needed to work in the lab.

**Experience**
**Soft skills**
- Time management
- Attention to detail
- Written and oral communication
- Collaboration skills

**Technical skills**
- Analytical and critical thinking
- Problem-solving skills

Pre-Job Preparation
Any laboratory experience gained prior to interviewing professionally will prove beneficial. Courses in statistics and mathematics, as well as lab experience, will serve as useful supplements.