LIFE SCIENCES IN SCOTLAND

#SCOTLANDISNOW
WELCOME TO SCOTLAND: the small country making a big impact on the global landscape.

Scotland is where you will find excellence in education, a flair for invention and a penchant for research. It’s a place where great minds connect to produce a dynamic life sciences environment.

You’ll find us progressive and pioneering. With a track record of innovation and enterprise, we punch above our weight right across the sector. In fact, Scotland hosts one of the biggest life sciences clusters in Europe, with over 41,000 people working for 770+ organisations covering medical technologies and pharmaceutical services, precision medicine, advanced therapies, digital health and care, industrial biotechnology, animal health and agritech.

The shining jewel in our crown is our people; by locating in Scotland, you’ll access a highly educated, skilled workforce with a strong work ethic. You’ll benefit from competitive labour costs and we will work with you to meet your business and workforce needs.

You’ll be connected to a culture of research, innovation and creativity through our academic institutions such as the School of Life Sciences at Dundee and the University of Edinburgh, which have an outstanding record of industry collaboration.

Fundamental to the success of Scotland’s thriving life sciences sector has been the pioneering medical research in our universities, in collaboration with National Health Service (NHS) Scotland partners.

With significant strength in longitudinal patient databases and data analysis, Scotland is in a prime position to deliver solutions in data driven healthcare.

Scotland is a land of great natural beauty and strong heritage and our warmth and generosity are world-renowned. Our friendly communities offer an exceptional quality of life, while progressive government policies strive to make Scotland an even fairer and better place to live and work for everyone.

This includes a recognition of the importance of a bio-based economy to achieve environmental sustainability.

Our driving determination is the key to our success. We’d love you to join the very many global businesses that choose to locate, operate and grow in Scotland alongside our ambitious local companies.

We’re here for you throughout the journey – you will be supported before, during and after you locate in Scotland.

Now is the time to invest in Scotland. So come on in; be part of Scotland’s continuing success story.
DID YOU KNOW?

Scotland hosts one of the most sizeable life sciences clusters in Europe with comprehensive areas of strength ranging from animal health to regenerative medicine.

Scotland has a history of drug discovery excellence, including some of the world’s best-selling drugs.

The life sciences sector employs over 41,000 people across over 770 organisations.

Scotland produces 70% of media for biomanufacturing in Europe.

Scotland is responsible for over 50% of Europe’s biosafety testing.

Scotland has the largest concentration of animal health and aquaculture researchers in Europe.

Scotland has achieved a world-class reputation for science, technology & training in aquaculture.

Scotland has an abundance of feedstocks and the necessary logistics to support a bio-based economy.

Dundee is the number 1 location in Europe for research impact in biomedical and health sciences.

Scotland is home to 2 out of the 6 UK British Heart Foundation centres of excellence for cardiovascular research.

We also host two Cancer Research UK research centres looking at developing novel drug targets, novel diagnostic methods using precision oncology and exploring ways to prevent cancer onset.

Scotland has a reputation for attracting some of the brightest international scientists.

You’ll be in good company – the Scottish life sciences cluster includes global names such as GSK, Charles River, PPD, Canon, Medtronic, Nikon, Sartorius Stedim, Neogen, Lonza and Thermo Fisher.
THE RIGHT TALENT FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Want to attract and retain the right talent to maintain your competitive edge? Come in – we’ve been waiting for you.

We often say that people are our greatest asset and in fact, our 2.8m-strong workforce is internationally recognised as one of the best trained, most reliable and cost-competitive labour forces in the world. And with a world-renowned educational system and a high ratio of graduates per capita, Scotland surpasses most countries of comparable size in Europe.

Scotland ranks worldwide among the top three for research productivity and impact, with 19 universities and higher education institutions, and world leading research centres that attract some of the brightest international scientists. For example, Scotland has the largest concentration of animal health and aquaculture researchers in Europe.

We will listen to your business, giving you the opportunity to influence skills, education and training provision to maximise your human capital.

By choosing Scotland for your life sciences project, you’ll find a cohort of ambitious, passionate and globally connected leaders across academia and industry and have access to:

A dynamic pool of skilled workers with over 41,000 PEOPLE WORKING IN LIFE SCIENCES

15 SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES PERFORMING WORLD-LEADING RESEARCH within life sciences, healthcare & related disciplines (4* in REF 2014)

The School of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee with more than 900 staff from over 60 countries, with DUNDEE RANKED AS THE TOP UNIVERSITY IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (REF 2014)

THE LEADING CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TRAINING for the discovery, development and delivery of better medicines in the Strathclyde Institute for Pharmacy & Biomedical Sciences (University of Strathclyde, 2018)

A SKILLS INVESTMENT PLAN which sets out a vision for Scotland to be the location for ambitious life sciences employers to develop, invest & grow by accessing a talent pool with exceptional skills

A LIFE SCIENCES LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS PROGRAMME which will enhance the development of a leadership pipeline in Scotland, ensuring that the ambitious growth targets of the life science sector are realised
Our universities continue to generate highly-skilled graduates and PhDs and our colleges train technicians and modern apprentices in strategic collaboration with industry, against the backdrop of a sector pledge to ensure we are constantly evolving to meet the future needs of the sector.

A workforce development portal will help you find the right training to up-skill your workforce, so while you focus on growing your business, you can rest assured that Scotland has a talent pool with the skills and experience you need. And, with a highly responsive skills and education system, we will meet your needs, both now and in the future.
TECHNOLOGY EXPERTISE

Scotland’s ability to develop new solutions for healthcare based around informatics, big data and patient stratification is almost unrivalled, as an outstanding level of academic and industry collaboration has created a truly open innovation environment.

YOUR COMPANY WOULD BENEFIT FROM:

- A strong academic and commercial base in informatics to develop world-class infrastructure supporting the continuing move towards a connected and personalised data-driven healthcare environment.
- A stable population with some of the best longitudinal health data in the world, with an informatics capability that exploits electronic patient records, linkable through a unique NHS patient identifier, enabling clinical trials, stratified medicine and genetic studies.
- A centralised healthcare system featuring a national Picture Archiving System (PACs) and a high incidence of morbidity of common complex diseases.
- The Scottish Genomes Partnership: a £15m collaboration between US genome sequencing company Illumina with the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, which has enabled large-scale whole genome sequencing operations in Scotland.
- A well-developed infrastructure to support genomic, proteomic and metabolomic research.
OUR CONNECTED TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE WILL TAKE YOUR R&D TO THE NEXT LEVEL

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPLICATIONS INSTITUTE (AIAI)
Specialises in Intelligent Systems; systems making use of the knowledge of experts, or systems that learn. Innovative applications are created using AI technologies.

THE DATA LAB
Enables industry, public sector and world-class university researchers to innovate and develop new data science capabilities in a collaborative environment.

THE DIGITAL HEALTH AND CARE INSTITUTE (DHI)
A purpose-built demonstration environment which allows innovators to quickly demonstrate service model and technical and digital innovation capabilities to support service redesign.

SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR TELEHEALTH AND TELECARE
Supporting the development of technology-enabled health and care services in Scotland such as supported self management, home and mobile health monitoring, telecare, digital services and apps, video enabled health and care and provision of computerised CBT services.

CENSIS
Industry-led Innovation Centre for Sensor and Imaging Systems (SIS) which enables collaboration at the forefront of market-focused SIS innovation, developing products and services for global markets.

PRECISION MEDICINE SCOTLAND INNOVATION CENTRE
Linking Scotland’s domain expertise, data assets and delivery capability to accelerate the adoption of precision medicine.
WE TAKE OUR REPUTATION SERIOUSLY

Scotland ranks worldwide among the top three for research productivity and impact, with 19 universities and higher education institutions, and world-leading research centres attracting some of the brightest international scientists.

WE'RE INVESTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE CENTRES TO CATALYSE COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA. THESE INTERACTIONS SUPPORT BUSINESS PERFORMANCE THROUGH THE RAPID AND EFFICIENT TRANSLATION OF SOLUTIONS TO INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES, CREATING EVEN GREATER VALUE FOR COMPANIES LIKE YOURS.

IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS, SCOTLAND HAS CREATED SIX INNOVATION CENTRES DIRECTLY ALIGNED TO LIFE SCIENCES

You'll find Scotland an ideal location to source partners for major life sciences projects, with world-leading research expertise across human healthcare, animal and plant sciences, aquaculture, agritech and industrial biotechnology and healthcare delivery through NHS Scotland.

A STRONG HISTORY OF DRUG DISCOVERY EXCELLENCE

Scotland’s supportive innovation environment has led to the Nobel-prize winning discovery of beta blockers, the world’s first vaccine against viral Hepatitis B, the world’s best-selling muscle relaxant (Atracurium) and best-selling asthma treatment (Salbutamol), Zantac for peptic ulcers and Bridion – the world’s first selective agent for reversal of neuromuscular block by steroid agents.

Time and again, investors choose Scotland because of the reputation of our academic institutions for driving R&D and innovation, and we have backed this up by increasing the level of R&D funding available to develop new products, services, processes and business models in Scotland.

Scotland is also pioneering the development of next-generation pharmaceutical manufacturing at the Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre (MMIC).

We’re confident that you’ll find Scotland to be the natural home for innovation in life sciences and we look forward to connecting you to new partners.
A SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

With a compact geography, engaged and connected industry leaders and active support from the Scottish Government, Scotland is one of the most accessible, well-connected and collaborative life sciences clusters in Europe.

KEY LOCATIONS

Discover the ideal environment for growth in Scotland’s network of business incubators and science parks, which help make Scotland one of the most cost-effective manufacturing locations in Europe.

Scotland’s four main city regions provide the majority of property for rent or land available for development however opportunities exist all over Scotland.

From the renowned Edinburgh BioQuarter, to facilities including Dundee Medipark, BioCity and the Glasgow Clinical Innovation Zone which is located alongside one of the largest acute hospitals in Europe, or the 100 acre Enterprise Park at Forres in the Highlands, Scotland offers your company a broad and flexible range of commercial property and development options to consider.

And the work to expand Scotland’s life sciences clusters is ongoing, with exciting developments across the country, including the new £56m Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre and £65m National Manufacturing Institute Scotland in Renfrewshire, a new Precision Medicine Living Lab in Glasgow, a £25m investment to grow the Tayside Biomedical Cluster and a £40m BioHub in Aberdeen, which will provide even more available space to host companies like yours.

EDINBURGH BIOQUARTER
First-stop access to the unique combination of pre-clinical and clinical excellence in the Edinburgh Region.
Ranked #1 in the UK for veterinary medicine, hospital-based clinical research, animal biology and clinical medicine.

PRECISION MEDICINE SCOTLAND INNOVATION CENTRE
Provides a platform for collaboration linking Scotland’s expertise, data assets & delivery infrastructure to accelerate the real-world adoption of Precision Medicine.

THE MRC CENTRE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
A world-leading research centre based at the University of Edinburgh, studying stem cells, disease and tissue repair to advance human health.
A connected base.
Invest in Scotland and you’ll be connected to a culture of research, innovation and creativity.

You can take advantage of our close connections to the best academic institutions, both in Scotland and abroad and your company will benefit from dynamic industry clusters and connected supply chains.

Life Sciences Scotland (LSS) is the industry leadership group for Scotland’s life sciences sector. Its members include leaders from across the industry, government ministers, academia, trade bodies, the NHS and our enterprise agencies.

The group meets regularly to discuss key issues and opportunities affecting the life sciences sector, and to work on ensuring the industry’s continued success in Scotland.

By locating in Scotland, you’ll benefit from a connected life sciences community where patient-centred care, academic institutions & research capabilities are aligned and there is a strong overlap across data, devices, diagnostics, digital health & precision medicine.

**NHS SCOTLAND** is a publicly funded system serving the healthcare needs of the Scottish population of approximately 5.4m.

**NHS RESEARCH SCOTLAND** aims to ensure that NHS Scotland provides the best environment to support clinical research and offers access to Scotland as a single clinical research site.

**SCOTLAND’S DIGITAL HEALTH & CARE STRATEGY** focuses on how Scotland will use technology to reshape and improve services, support person-centred care and improve outcomes.
Invest in Scotland and you’ll be close to some huge markets. Whether you’re heading to London, Europe or the rest of the world, Scotland is well-connected for business travel.

And it’s no coincidence that over 50% of Europe’s biosafety testing happens in Scotland, as a growing number of companies like yours put their confidence in our robust, temperature-controlled logistics infrastructure.

Indeed, our logistics service providers provide temperature controlled GxP complaint, door to door delivery, meaning that you can reach:

- At least 27 MAJOR CITIES IN EUROPE within 24 hours
- At least 6 MAJOR UK CITIES within 8 hours
- All 4 MAJOR SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS within 3 hours

Beyond our robust and efficient transport network, our advanced and reliable DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE makes Scotland the strategic location for your business.
GET IN TOUCH
WE’D LOVE TO WELCOME YOU

Connected business support from Scotland’s enterprise agencies will ensure that you are supported before, during and after you locate in Scotland.

We aim to make it quick and easy for your business to settle in Scotland so we will help you to identify premises, academic partners and investment opportunities, recruit staff and access funding to upskill your staff, develop new products and services and access growth capital.

Working together, everyone from national government and local authorities to the NHS, universities and advisors, will make the connections which ensure your investment goes smoothly, so that you can focus on growing your business.

To find out why #SCOTLANDISNOW for your company or to experience Scotland for yourself, get in touch and we will be happy to arrange this for you.

NOW IS THE TIME TO INVEST IN SCOTLAND.
WE’D LOVE TO WELCOME YOU.

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