

# AMGEN® Biotech Experience

## Scientific Discovery for the Classroom South Africa

“We constantly have former students come back to tell us that they chose to major in science, biotech or related fields because of this experience.”

– Jim Mauch, High School Science Teacher



### Quick Facts

- In a typical year, ABE reaches approximately 90,000 students and 1,500 teachers
- Programme curriculum, professional development, and all materials needed are provided free of charge
- Globally, the programme has impacted more than 900,000 students to date
- Independent and rigorous evaluation data found that students exposed to ABE have significant and substantial learning in biotechnology and increased interest and confidence in doing science and biotechnology
- By the end of 2023, ABE anticipates reaching 1,000,000 students because of the Amgen Foundation's more than \$42 million commitment to the programme
- ABE is currently available in the following locations: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong SAR, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mainland China, Mexico, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom, and multiple Amgen communities in the United States

### Contact Us

#### Enquiries:

Zibusiso Nyoni

Programme Manager

Email: [zibusiso.nyoni@sci-bono.co.za](mailto:zibusiso.nyoni@sci-bono.co.za)

**AMGEN® Foundation**  
Inspiring the Scientists of Tomorrow

[amgenbiotechexperience.net/za](https://amgenbiotechexperience.net/za)

**The Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) is an innovative science education programme that introduces secondary school students to the excitement of scientific discovery. ABE provides secondary school teachers with the loan of research-grade equipment, supplies, curriculum and professional development at no cost.**

#### BIOTECHNOLOGY

Biotechnology has brought about the discovery and development of a new generation of human therapeutics. Advancements in both cellular and molecular biology have allowed scientists to identify and develop a host of new medicines for patients with serious illness. Biotechnology provides the tools and techniques for modern pharmaceutical research and drug development, and it is critical that future citizens are knowledgeable about this field.

#### PROGRAMME BACKGROUND

The ABE programme began over 30 years ago through a unique collaboration of Amgen scientists and educators with a passion for sharing the joy of science and discovery. With the vision to bring the excitement of biotechnology to the fingertips of students, they developed a robust curriculum that is now available in 26 locations across the globe. In 2013, the Amgen Foundation joined forces with Education Development Center, a global nonprofit organisation with deep experience and expertise in science education, to establish a Program Office to support and strengthen the programme worldwide.

#### THE PROGRAMME AND CURRICULUM

The ABE programme integrates a curriculum that allows students to explore the steps involved in creating biotechnology therapies. Aligned with the core biology curriculum, the programme supports the larger goal of fostering scientific literacy. In addition to the curriculum and teacher professional development to understand the lab protocols and science, participating teachers receive a loaned kit, free of charge, with research-grade equipment and supplies that allow students to participate in advanced science laboratories.

#### THE LABS AND MATERIALS

The ABE labs parallel some of the important steps taken by the biotechnology industry to develop medicines to treat a variety of diseases. The labs incorporate core technologies used by scientists in the discovery of human therapeutics, so that students will better understand the role of biotechnology and the potential impact of this industry on our future. In addition, by engaging in this programme, students may be more motivated to understand the underlying science concepts and perhaps even pursue careers in science. In collaboration with the Amgen Foundation and ABE teachers, [LabXchange](#) has created a collection of pathways designed to enhance the ABE lab experience. The pathways are modular to allow you to mix and match concepts and practice with lab techniques in the way that best supports your students.

#### ABE SOUTH AFRICA

ABE South Africa is supported by and hosted at Sci-Bono Discovery Centre located in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sci-Bono is the largest science centre in Southern Africa with a mission to assist people in South Africa with instilling a culture of science and technology by providing a unique platform to explore and better understand the world of science. ABE South Africa serves teachers and learners in the Gauteng province, targeting schools mostly from marginalized areas.

