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LIFE SCIENCES IN CALGARY

Calgary has a thriving Life Sciences ecosystem motivated to solve global challenges, driven by innovation and well-positioned for growth. Home to top institutions producing internationally recognized research, numerous emerging companies advancing health-care solutions, and a highly skilled pool of talent, this dynamic sector is accelerating homegrown innovation in Calgary.

KEY SECTOR

Life Sciences is a sector identified for growth in the economic strategy Calgary in the New Economy that sees Calgary as a place where bright minds embrace advanced technology and innovative thinking to solve global challenges, including health care.

110 Companies developing life sciences products and services

944 Clinical trials underway in 2021*

3,500 Students enrolled in Life Science-related fields in 2020

*clinicaltrials.gov

VALUE PROPOSITION & COMPETITIVENESS STUDY

A 2021 study for Calgary Economic Development by KPMG assesses Calgary's competitiveness as a centre for investment in Life Sciences against eight jurisdictions in North America. It rated Calgary third among the peer group with significant opportunities in four key subsectors.

Diagnostics

Demand for diagnostic services continues to grow as our population ages with increases in conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

Oncology

One of the world's fastest growing therapeutic areas with significant assets locally, including the Calgary Cancer Centre.

Digital Health

Calgary is seeing an emergence of startups focused on providing digital health products and services leveraging Alberta's data rich health environment.

Microbiome

The growing microbiome market is supported by the International Microbiome Centre – home to the world's largest germ-free facility.





RESEARCH HUB

With Alberta Health Services, Canada's largest integrated health system, and internationally recognized R&D from post-secondary institutions, including the University of Calgary, which attracts more research funding per graduate student than any university in Canada, Calgary is a hub for life sciences research.

Key institutions include:

- Cumming School of Medicine
- Biomedical Engineering Program
- Life Sciences Innovation Hub
- Ward of the 21st Century
- IMPACT Clinical Trials Accelerator
- The Hunter Hub for Entrepreneurial Thinking
- International Microbiome Centre
- Calgary Cancer Centre will be North America's second largest cancer treatment and research facility when completed in 2023

GLOBAL ACCESS TO KEY MARKETS

- Competitive logistics and distribution advantages with linkages throughout Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to support cold chain distribution.
- 14 active free trade agreements covering 51 countries.
- Connected to 1.5 billion consumers and nearly two-thirds of the world's GDP.

COMPETITIVE ECOSYSTEM

- 1ST** for competitive transportation costs for system assembly (e.g., medical devices and technology intensive biomedical manufacturing)
- 2ND** most competitive R&D labour costs in Canada (\$116,000 average labour cost for R&D)
- 3RD** in cost competitiveness for R&D of tangible products (e.g., pharmaceutical and biomedical R&D operations)

FUNDING AND BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Opportunity Calgary Investment Fund (City of Calgary)
- UCEED (University of Calgary)
- Alberta's Employment Innovation Grant (Government of Alberta)
- Alberta Innovates (Government of Alberta)
- Scientific Research and Experimental Development Program (Government of Canada)
- Western Economic Diversification (Government of Canada)

INCUBATORS AND ACCELERATORS FOR STARTUPS AND GLOBAL SCALEUPS



*KPMG City Competitiveness Index. Rankings based on an assessment of Calgary against eight comparable North American jurisdictions and "business personas" applicable to Life Sciences. A business persona is a profile of the cost structure and operational requirements commonly present in a category of business operations or foreign direct investment projects. [www.https://citycompetitivenessindex.kpmg.ca/home](https://citycompetitivenessindex.kpmg.ca/home)