Scientific Work Experience

This guide is for students to help identify science related work experience and placements. Work experience is a great way to develop your skills, enhance your employability prospects as well as building up your professional contacts within your industry of choice. Undertaking such opportunities also shows employers that you have a genuine interest in working within the industry.

Many organisations offer both short term and long term opportunities, these include summer internships, work experience placements and year-long roles. Some of the organisations which offer scientific work experience opportunities are listed below. This guide also lists details of sources of funding for undertaking such positions; if you are eligible some companies may be able to financially assist you when undertaking your work experience opportunity.

Sourcing Opportunities

The following resources offer a range of scientific work experience and internship opportunities with a variety of organisations.

- **Biochemical Society** [http://www.biochemistry.org/Education/HigherEducation/Internshipsandplacements.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/Education/HigherEducation/Internshipsandplacements.aspx) A list of organisations that provide further information on finding placements and work experience

- **Cogent SSC** [http://www.sciencecareerpathways.com/recruitment-placements-other-opportunities/](http://www.sciencecareerpathways.com/recruitment-placements-other-opportunities/) Cogent have launched a ‘Life Science Placements Service’, this is backed by government to increase the number of student and graduate placements being offered by industry

- **HE Academy UK Centre for Bioscience** [http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/resources/difflearn/studentships.pdf](http://www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/resources/difflearn/studentships.pdf) This document provides a list of organisations offering summer vacation placements and funding

- **UK Trade and Investment & Office for Life Sciences** [https://www.lifesciences.ukti.gov.uk/](https://www.lifesciences.ukti.gov.uk/) This database is useful for sourcing life science organisations within the UK. The website offers contact details and further information about local and national organisations which may be useful for contacting companies on a speculative basis to enquire about possible work experience or internship opportunities.

- **Year in Industry (YINI)** [http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry/about-yini](http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry/about-yini) YINI help students find UK based work placements within science and other areas

Scientific Research

These organisations offer students the opportunity to gain hands on experience in a variety of areas within scientific research.

- **Amgen Scholars Europe Programme** [http://www.amgenscholars.com/about](http://www.amgenscholars.com/about) Provides students with opportunities to undertake summer research experience at leading institutions

- **Cancer Research UK** [www.beatson.gla.ac.uk/Education/Summer-Interns.html](http://www.beatson.gla.ac.uk/Education/Summer-Interns.html) Summer internships through The Beatson Institute in Glasgow

John Innes Centre, The Sainsbury Laboratory & The Genome Analysis Centre [http://opportunities.jic.ac.uk/summerprogramme/] Provide unique opportunities for bioscience students to spend the summer on their research programme

Lonza [http://www.lonza.com/about-lonza/careers/student-opportunities/internships.aspx] Offers year-long placements for Bioscience undergraduates, normally in analytical services, cell culture development and purification development

MedImmune [http://www.medimmune.com/careers] Offer 12 month placements for Bioscience students in their Cambridge facilities as well as in the US

MRC Clinical Sciences Centre (CSC) [http://csc.mrc.ac.uk/study-here/summer-studentships/] Funded undergraduate research summer studentships within biology and clinical science

Reckitt Benckiser [http://www.rb.com/interns-students] Offer both year and summer internship placements, not only in science but business too

Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) [www.daad.de/rise/en/] A summer internship programme for undergraduates in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering

The Francis Crick Institute [http://www.crick.ac.uk/about-us/jobs-and-study/summer-students/] Offers summer internships within Biomedical research

Wellcome Trust [http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Jobs/Work-placements-and-internships/index.htm] Offer paid summer internships for undergraduate students in areas such as science funding, policy and public engagement.

The Sanger Institute [http://www.sanger.ac.uk/workstudy/placements/] The trust offer sandwich year and summer placements for undergraduates who wish to gain hands-on experience within a scientific research environment

**Pharmaceutical**

The links below offer advice and information on gaining work experience within the pharmaceutical industry

**Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry** [http://careers.abpi.org.uk] Information for getting into the industry and list of pharmaceutical recruiters

**AstaZeneca** [www.astazenecacareers.com] Offer a range of placements in the UK, US and Sweden. Opportunities vary from summer vacation programmes to 12 month industrial placements, available to full-time bioscience students

**Covance** [http://careers.covance.com/] A Biopharmaceutical development services company offering worldwide placements (summer and year long), where interns aim to help advance science, medicine, food quality and healthcare worldwide

**GSK (Glaxo Smith Kline)** [http://uk.gsk.com/en-gb/careers/undergraduates/] Host both year-long placements and summer opportunities.

**Environmental Science**

The following organisations provide students with scientific work experience opportunities within the environmental sector

**Bright Green Placements** [http://brightgreenplacements.org.uk/] Environmental project placements with small employers in Scotland

**Energy Institute** [www.energyinst.org/information-centre/internships] Designed to provide young professionals and recent graduates with work experience in the energy sector.

**Kew** [http://www.kew.org/learn/specialist-training/student-placements-science-and-it] Short term and long term scientific placements

**Rothamsted Research** [http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/undergraduate_summer_school] Undergraduate summer scheme provides students with practical experience at one of the UK’s leading agricultural research institutes
Funding, Bursaries and Guidance

If you secure a work experience or internship opportunity you may be eligible to apply for funding from one of the University’s work experience bursary schemes [http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/funding/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/funding/index.aspx) Alternatively one of the following organisations may be able to help assist with the costs.

**Biochemical Society** [http://www.biochemistry.org/Grants.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/Grants.aspx) Offers a programme of grants supporting research, attendance at scientific conferences and the sponsorship of events

**Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council** [http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/) Offers a variety of funding schemes for students undertaking research projects (applications to be made by supervisors)

**British Mycological Society** [http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/grants-and-prizes/undergraduate-bursary/](http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/society/grants-and-prizes/undergraduate-bursary/) A number of Undergraduate Student Bursaries to give experience of research in any branch of mycology

**British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy** [http://bsac.org.uk/funding/vacation-scholarship/](http://bsac.org.uk/funding/vacation-scholarship/) Designed to fund undergraduates to undertake research work experience in the field of antimicrobial chemotherapy


**British Society for Plant Pathology** [http://www.bssp.org.uk/funds/vacation.php](http://www.bssp.org.uk/funds/vacation.php) An undergraduate vacation bursary fund for students undertaking experience within a plant pathology laboratory; supervisors may nominate students to receive a bursary for up to 10 weeks

**Genetics Society** [http://www.genetics.org.uk/Funding/GeneticsSocietySummerStudentships.aspx](http://www.genetics.org.uk/Funding/GeneticsSocietySummerStudentships.aspx) Offers grants for undergraduates undertaking research opportunities in any area of genetics (applications must be made by Principal Investigators (PI) at Universities or Research Institutes)

**Nuffield Foundation** [http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/nuffield-research-placements](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/nuffield-research-placements) Nuffield Research Placements provide over 1,000 students each year with the opportunity to work alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians

**Pathological Society** [http://www.pathsoc.org/index.php/grants-lectures-awards](http://www.pathsoc.org/index.php/grants-lectures-awards) Offers a range of grants to support students with their research projects in pathology and travel

**Royal Horticultural Society** [https://www.rhs.org.uk/Education-Learning/Bursaries-grants/Applying-for-a-bursary](https://www.rhs.org.uk/Education-Learning/Bursaries-grants/Applying-for-a-bursary) Offer bursaries for placements with relevance to horticulture such as plant / soil scientific positions

**Society of Biology** [https://www.societyofbiology.org/get-involved/grants/undergraduate-studentships](https://www.societyofbiology.org/get-involved/grants/undergraduate-studentships) Provides an extensive list of organisations which may give funding assistance

**Society for General Microbiology** [http://www.sgm.ac.uk/en/grants-prizes/index.cfm](http://www.sgm.ac.uk/en/grants-prizes/index.cfm) Offers a limited number of awards to enable undergraduates to work on microbiological research projects during the summer vacation

**Wellcome Trust** [http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/PhD-funding-and-undergraduate-opportunitiesWTD004448.htm](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/PhD-funding-and-undergraduate-opportunitiesWTD004448.htm) Biomedical Vacation Scholarships - these awards provide undergraduates with experience of research during the summer vacation – applications open in Autumn

Please note the above lists are not exhaustive and represents a sample of the types of organisations that may be able to offer opportunities or funding for work experience

For further information visit: [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers)