

## Work experience in scientific services

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.

- **Gradcracker** [www.gradcracker.com/search/engineering-work-placements-internships](http://www.gradcracker.com/search/engineering-work-placements-internships)  
Placements/internships in all STEM disciplines
- **Cogent SSC** [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** [www.heacademy.ac.uk/sites/default/files/employability-vacation-placements.pdf](http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/sites/default/files/employability-vacation-placements.pdf)  
This document provides a list of organisations offering summer vacation placements and funding
- **UK Trade and Investment & Office for Life Sciences** [www.lifesciences.ukti.gov.uk/](http://www.lifesciences.ukti.gov.uk/)  
This database is useful for sourcing life science organisations within the UK
- **Year in Industry (YINI)** [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

[www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers)

## Scientific Research

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

- University of Birmingham** [www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk)  
Academics will regularly offer students the opportunity to work in a research lab during the summer months. These positions aren't advertised, therefore, you will need to contact academics directly to establish if they are able to offer you work experience. Use the staff lists on the university's intranet to find relevant academics: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/biosciences/staff/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/biosciences/staff/index.aspx)
- Amgen Scholars Europe Programme** [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.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/volunteer/internships](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/support-us/volunteer/internships)  
A variety of internships available for undergraduates and graduates looking to develop their skills and gain work experience.
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL)**  
[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-science-and-technology-laboratory/about/recruitment#summer-vacation-placements](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/defence-science-and-technology-laboratory/about/recruitment#summer-vacation-placements)  
Ministry of Defence summer vacation scheme, industrial placements and bespoke opportunities.
- John Innes Centre, The Sainsbury Laboratory & The Genome Analysis Centre**  
<https://opportunities.jic.ac.uk/summerprogramme/SummeratJIC.htm>  
Provide unique opportunities for bioscience students to spend the summer on their research programme
- Lonza** [www.lonza.com/about-lonza/careers/student-opportunities.aspx](http://www.lonza.com/about-lonza/careers/student-opportunities.aspx)  
Offers internships for Bioscience undergraduates, normally in analytical services, cell culture development and purification development
- MedImmune** [www.medimmune.com/careers](http://www.medimmune.com/careers)  
Offer 12 month placements for Bioscience students in their Cambridge facilities as well as in the US
- MRC London Institute of Medical Sciences** <http://csc.mrc.ac.uk/study-here/summer-studentships/>  
Funded undergraduate research summer studentships within biology and clinical science
- Reckitt Benckiser** [www.rb.com/careers/graduates-interns/](http://www.rb.com/careers/graduates-interns/)  
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/](http://www.daad.de/rise/en/)  
A summer internship programme for undergraduate students in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, earth sciences and engineering
- The Francis Crick Institute** [www.crick.ac.uk/about-us/jobs-and-study/summer-students/](http://www.crick.ac.uk/about-us/jobs-and-study/summer-students/)  
Offers summer internships within Biomedical research

- **Wellcome Trust** [www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Jobs/Work-placements-and-internships/index.htm](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** [www.sanger.ac.uk/workstudy/placements](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
- **Costello Medical Consulting** [www.costellomedical.com/careers/vacancies/](http://www.costellomedical.com/careers/vacancies/)  
Placement and undergraduate opportunities in Cambridge and Singapore
- **Vienna Biocenter Summer School (VBC)** [viennabiocenter.org/research-education/vbc-summer-school/](http://viennabiocenter.org/research-education/vbc-summer-school/)  
An opportunity for undergraduate students to work together with leading scientists at the VBC
- **Science & Technology Facilities Council** [www.stfc.ac.uk/about-us/work-with-us/vacation-student-scheme](http://www.stfc.ac.uk/about-us/work-with-us/vacation-student-scheme) Offers a vacation summer scheme for undergraduate students to gain practical work experience
- **Royal Society of Biology** [www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/grants/plant-health-ug-studentships](http://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/grants/plant-health-ug-studentships)  
Studentship projects funded via the Royal Society of Biology in plant health
- **Earlham Institute** [www.earlham.ac.uk/studentship-vacancies](http://www.earlham.ac.uk/studentship-vacancies)  
The Earlham institute advertise a number of studentship vacancies each year from September
- **Mars** [www.mars.com/uk/en/careers/graduates-students/placements-internships](http://www.mars.com/uk/en/careers/graduates-students/placements-internships)  
Mars offer a number of summer internships and also 12 month industrial placements

## 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.astrazenecacareers.com](http://www.astrazenecacareers.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  
[www.astrazenecacareers.com](http://www.astrazenecacareers.com)
- **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
- **Pfizer** [www.pfizer.co.uk/content/undergraduate-placements](http://www.pfizer.co.uk/content/undergraduate-placements)  
A biopharmaceutical company offering 12 month undergraduate placements across all business units

## 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** <https://knowledge.energyinst.org/elibrary/internship-programme>  
Provides young professionals and recent graduates with work experience in the energy sector.
- **Kew** [www.kew.org/science/training-and-education/internships](http://www.kew.org/science/training-and-education/internships)  
Short term and long term scientific placements
- **Rothamsted Research** [www.rothamsted.ac.uk/careers](http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/careers)  
Undergraduate summer scheme provides students with practical experience at one of the UK's leading agricultural research institutes
- **Field Studies Council** [www.field-studies-council.org/vacancies/higher-education-student-placements.aspx](http://www.field-studies-council.org/vacancies/higher-education-student-placements.aspx) Offers year-long placements for undergraduate students

## Funding, Bursaries and Guidance

If you secure a summer work experience or internship opportunity you may be eligible to apply for funding from one of the University's work experience bursary schemes:  
[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** [www.biochemistry.org/Grants/SummerVacationStudentships.aspx](http://www.biochemistry.org/Grants/SummerVacationStudentships.aspx)  
Grants are available to support an undergraduate student to carry out a summer lab placement.
- **Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council** [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** [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/>  
Designed to fund undergraduates to undertake research work experience in the field of antimicrobial chemotherapy

- **British Society for Cell Biology** <http://bscb.org/competitions-awardsgrants/studentships/>  
Financial support for undergraduates who wish to gain research experience in cell biology in the summer.
- **British Society for Plant Pathology** [www.bspp.org.uk/funds/vacation.php](http://www.bspp.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** [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** [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** [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** [www.rhs.org.uk/Education-Learning/Bursaries-grants](http://www.rhs.org.uk/Education-Learning/Bursaries-grants)  
Offer bursaries for placements with relevance to horticulture such as plant / soil scientific positions
- **Royal Society of Biology** [www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/grants/undergraduate-studentships](http://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/grants/undergraduate-studentships)  
Provides an extensive list of organisations offering studentships for undergraduates seeking summer work experience
- **Society for General Microbiology** [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** [www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/PhD-funding-and-undergraduate-opportunities/WTD004448.htm](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Funding-schemes/PhD-funding-and-undergraduate-opportunities/WTD004448.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