



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

**SCHOOL OF  
BIOLOGICAL  
SCIENCES**



## **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - CAREERS AND WORK PLACEMENT INFORMATION (RESEARCH / LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRIES)**

### **Degree Programmes with integrated work placement**

BSc Biological Sciences  
BSc Biochemistry  
BSc Microbiology  
(the above courses are also offered as a  
MSci)

### **Work Placement Options**

Placement is carried out after completion of Stage 2 of the degree programme. For many students this is the most important aspect of the degree, enabling them to experience the types of jobs which are available on graduation.

- Option one - 16 week full time placement to be carried out between Easter and September.
- Option two - Your degree is undertaken 'with Professional studies' based on a full time 46 week placement to be carried out after Stage 2. After completing placement you return to your studies to complete your degree programme.
- Full time means working a 35 hour week.
- Assessed as an integral academic component of the degree programme.

- Students have responsibility for finding their work placement supported by the Placement team within the School.

### **Types of placement you can undertake**

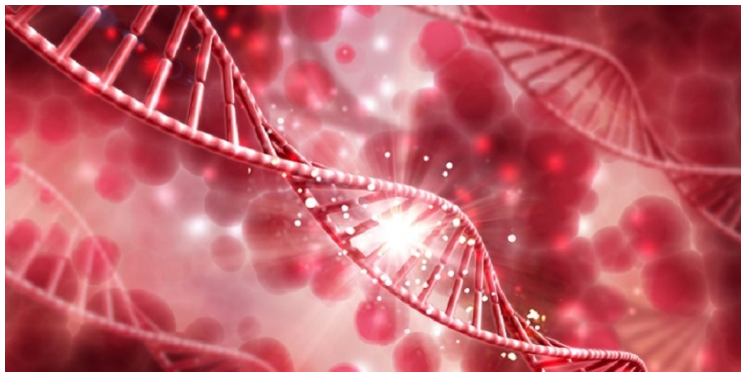
Students seek work placement and graduate opportunities across a range of sectors;

Laboratory based - areas including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, environmental monitoring, land management including bioremediation, food and drink, water management and testing laboratories, animal and plant health,

analytical testing laboratories, plant and crop science, healthcare organisations such as the NHS, publicly funded research organisations, higher education institutions.

Roles include research and development through to quality control, GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice), validation, product and process development.

Non bench based - students also seek work placement and graduate employment in areas including clinical trials, regulatory affairs, business development, science education and communication.





## Benefits in undertaking work placement

- Improved chances of securing a graduate-level job
- A clearer understanding of what career you want to do, or not
- Opportunity to integrate academic theory and practice
- Makes you more employable – develop transferable and technical skills
- Experience of the job application process
- Increased confidence, motivation and professionalism
- Start to develop your own networks and contacts - Get acquainted with experts in your field
- Valuable insights into industry culture and commercial awareness
- Heightened self-awareness through reflection
- Experience of other countries, cultures and languages

## Support in finding a placement

Students are supported in their search for placement by a dedicated School Placement and Careers Adviser. The School has developed relationships with employers who advertise and recruit our students on an annual basis. Our students undertake placement locally, nationally and internationally.

Support for students seeking work placement includes:

- Timetabled programme of workshops during Stage 2 supporting students through all stages of work placement and including module requirements and the academic requirements related to work placement
- One to one career guidance appointments - available weekly to help you make decisions about work placement and how this relates to life after graduation and options with your degree
- Preparation of CV and cover letters - guidance on completing application forms
- Preparing students for placement interviews, including interview technique and mock interview support
- Dedicated points of contact for students before, during and post placement for administrative and academic issues
- Students have access to a school specific web based placement management system and associated resources have been developed specifically for our students
- Suitable placement vacancies are sourced and advertised. In addition students have access to previous placement information
- Sessions with students who have completed work placement

All work placements are assessed within a module which contributes a mark towards your degree classification. All placements are quality assured by the academic Module Co-ordinator, Dr Karen King (k.king@qub.ac.uk), to ensure students will have appropriate responsibilities to allow graduate level skills development.

## Examples of previous employers

- Almac
- Actavis
- Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
- Belfast Trust Laboratories
- Celerion Clinical Trials
- C-TRIC
- Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs
- Fusion Antibodies
- Genpact
- GSK (GlaxoSmithKline)
- GSK Singapore
- Immunocore
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Institute of Bioengineering Catalonia
- Institute of Health Sciences –
- Queen's University Belfast
- Martin Luther University Halle Wittenberg
- MSD
- Norbrook
- Randox Laboratories
- Teagasc
- Washington State University



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**For more information please contact:**  
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