Work experience for bioscience students

It is easy to lose sight of all the Work Experience opportunities available through King’s, and of course those external ones as well. There are many ways you can organize your work experience, but remember that quality comes before quantity.

Below are just a few of the ways you could begin to acquire this practical exposure in the Bioscience industry. And remember, you can always set up an appointment with one of our Careers Consultants to further discuss your options. Log onto King’s Career Connect to book an appointment now.

Research

King’s Undergraduate Research Fellow Internships

The KURF scheme gives students the chance to learn from and support leading academics through carrying out research initiatives. Projects run during the summer breaks and are offered by academic staff members from across King’s Faculties and Institutes. Available positions vary widely and can include laboratory work, conducting interviews, or undertaking a literature review.

To find a list of the projects undertaken in 2017, please visit the prospectus here. To register your interest for the 2018 scheme, click here.

Research with Royal Societies

The Royal Society of Biology and others frequently offer paid studentships over the summer. These will involve you in participating in research across a wide range of fields. Start your research by looking up opportunities on the specific society’s website, such as www.rsb.org.uk. Be aware that deadlines are commonly early in the calendar year.

Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust offer vacation studentships and internships as well. Not only will you get to do research, but you’ll also get a look into how a NGO works. For example, they run a Summer Internship Programme aimed at undergraduates who will work alongside staff in an area of their interest.

Amgen

Amgen are a biotechnology company, who every year run the Amgen Scholars Programme, which gives 340 undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in a research project at European and Asian educational institutions. Applications close in February for a start that summer.

Other Research Opportunities

Research opportunities can be found by doing a quick search on King’s Career Connect. Otherwise, here are some examples of other types of organisations which may offer research roles:

- The European Leadership Network (ELN)
- Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Sector Guides from King’s Careers & Employability

We’ve produced a large number of careers information sheets for students to use to aid them in their career search, with links to information sites, professional bodies linked to the industry and vacancy boards.

All of these can be found on our Careers Kit, located at www.kcl.ac.uk/CareersKit. The guides listed under “Sector Guides: Healthcare” and “Sector Guides: Science & Technology” might be of particular interest, but do have a look through any that interest you.

Opportunities at King’s

Accredited King’s Internships Programme

This a great way to embed your employability skills directly through the curriculum. Accredited internships are assessed as part of your degree programme and are a fantastic way for students to gain practical experience while completing their degree. These internships exist in growing numbers in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across King’s.

King’s Global Internships Programme

The King’s Global Internships Programme gives you the unique opportunity to intern abroad with a quality assured work placement during your summer break. Internships are offered across seven cities around the world, in countries such as South Africa, the United States of America and China.

Positions are available in a range of sectors, including Bioscience related industries such as Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals. To find out more about the application process, dates and fees, visit the Global Internships Programme page.

King’s Internships: Part-Time & Summer Internships

During March and April of each year, students are able to search for summer internships listed as part of this scheme on King’s CareerConnect. All internships have specific projects associated with them and run for a minimum of 8 weeks. They
are paid at least the National Living Wage and are pre-screened to ensure students receive a high degree of support and learning. Previous internships specific to Bioscience students have included:

- Healthcare Programmes and Communications Intern at Four Health Communications
- Summer Intern at Talk to a Doctor (Stadn Ltd)

**Study Abroad**

Students at King’s have the option of participating in a semester or year-long studies at a partner university overseas. Students from the School of Bioscience Education can study abroad for the first semester of their second year at the University of North Carolina or, for their entire second year at one of the following four destinations:

- The Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden
- The University of Melbourne, Australia
- National University of Singapore
- The University of California

Deadlines are generally in December or January for a start in the following academic year, depending on the programme you choose. For more information about study abroad programmes, click here. For Bioscience-specific information, click here.

**Go Global**

In November each year, King’s hosts ‘Go Global’, a two-week series of events promoting international opportunities available to King’s students and staff. Make sure to attend the events to find out more about your options. Information on Go Global events can be found here.

**Extramural Placement Years**

An extramural placement allows you to work in the scientific industry during your undergraduate programme (between 2nd and 3rd year). If this doesn’t work with your studies, consider taking a semester or year off for a placement. Extramural placements are either overseas or in the UK, and can be at a pharmaceutical company, a government research establishment, or an academic research institute.

**KCLSU Societies**

Alongside your studies, you can become involved with one of KCLSU’s societies. There are currently over 330 societies and activity groups to choose from, ranging from athletics and language groups, to general department societies such as the Biomedical Students’ Association. Becoming part of a society will not only help you meet more people at King’s, but will also allow you to take on leadership roles within the King’s community. And employers often tell us that they’re impressed when they see on students’ CVs that they’ve taken on positions of responsibility within societies.

**King’s Talent Bank**

Register with KCL’s on-campus job agency for temporary work within individual departments, as well as external positions. While most of the opportunities won’t relate directly to Bioscience, there'll allow you to pick up experience and skills that you can take into the world of permanent employment.

**Student Ambassador**

In September of each academic year, King’s employs a group of students to become Student Ambassadors. Ambassador roles include: Campus Tour Guides, International Ambassadors, Higher Education Liaison Representatives, and Widening Participation Ambassadors. Taking part in the programme allows you to get paid while working flexible hours and enhancing your CV with varied work experiences.

**King’s 20 accelerator**

Do you have a business idea that you would like to develop, but you’re not quite sure where to start? Have a look at King’s very own accelerator program – King’s20! The King’s Entrepreneurship Institute is keen to support you in making your idea into reality. Successful venture or start-up applications receive an estimated £30,000, which includes an office space, workshops on running a business, and access to a network of investors, mentors and partners.

Click here for stories of previous ventures built.

**Still not sure where to start?**

**King’s CareerConnect**

www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect

King’s CareerConnect is our exclusive online career portal enabling students and recent alumni to engage with our services. Once logged in, you can access our vacancy board and search hundreds of part-time roles, placements, internships and graduate-level opportunities, book one-to-one careers or application guidance appointments, apply for exclusive King’s Internships and view our full events calendar to book attendance at our many events throughout the year.

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