

CASE STUDY

Biotechnology Student

Host Employers: First placement was at the “**School of Environment, Natural Resources & Geography**” and the second placement was with “**Suprex Ltd**”

What is GO Wales?

The ‘GO Wales’ project based at Bangor University helps students to develop their employability skills and increase their chances of obtaining graduate level employment upon leaving university.

About the student

The student was in his second year studying Biotechnology. He had no career related work experience or formal interview experience. He was keen to progress to a research role within biotechnology but had no contacts or the networks to move forward with this.



Please describe what made you decide to first take part in the GO Wales Project? *I thought GO Wales sounded like a wonderful opportunity to be able to expand my skills alongside my academic studies as well as boosting my chances for employment.*

What type of work experience opportunities did the GO Wales Advisors arrange for you? *My first placement was research orientated looking at developing potato varieties resistant to late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*). I spent much of my time carrying out primary research and data handling for the study. The second placement was with Suprex Ltd and involved working in a laboratory carrying out quality control checks, liquid filling and extracting flavours using supercritical CO₂.*

Was the work experience opportunity relevant to the career path you are hoping to pursue? *Yes, the work experience was an excellent opportunity for me to learn what it feels to work in an industrial environment.*

Do you feel you have achieved the objectives? *I feel that I have achieved most of the objectives I set for myself and have learned a great deal more about what it is like to work in a biotech company and learning the procedures used by the scientists for collecting and processing data.*

Can you describe any new skills which you have learnt which you did not expect? *One of the main skills that I learnt was managing time effectively between my study work load / exams and doing work experience. Since completing my work experience, I feel like I have expanded my skills and knowledge outside academia.*

Do you feel this work opportunity has helped you overcome any barriers? *It has helped me to gain confidence in myself knowing the fact that I have some work experience that is relevant to what I am studying. I feel much more confident in myself with regards to approaching future potential employers.*

What are/have been the highlights of working at these placements? *The highlight of my placement would be whilst I was working at Suprex Ltd using their supercritical CO₂ machine to extract vanilla and green tea flavourings. It was also very lovely to meet all the people who were involved during my placements.*

What advice would you give to students who are thinking about applying to GO Wales? *It is a project definitely worth applying for. The GO Wales advisors were amazing and friendly, helping me to find the right work experience and arranging travel to/from my placement.*