



Cyflawni drwy
Brofiad Gwaith
Achieve through
Work Experience



CASE STUDY

Chemistry Student

Host Employer: Warwick Chemicals

What is GO Wales?

The 'GO Wales' Achieve through work experience programme, 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 a four year chemistry course. The course includes a year working in an industry placement which the student arranges. The student needed help to gain work experience but did not have any contacts in the field. We arranged his first placement with the research team at the School of Chemistry. His second placement was with Warwick Chemicals who are world leaders in TAED manufacture - based in Mostyn.

Please describe why you decided to approach GO Wales for support in finding work experience?

I found GO Wales through a careers advice day hosted by the University. I decided to approach them because I was really struggling to find work placements related to my industry study, and as I didn't have any contacts or know anyone to approach, I felt having help from a dedicated team would be beneficial to me in finding relatable work experience.

Have your placements helped you to move forward with the career path you would like to pursue?

My placement at Warwick Chemicals was very useful in helping me decide on a future career path. I really enjoyed the R&D aspect of the placement and a route of that sorts is one that I wish to continue in the future.

How would you describe the experience of working in this role?

Working in this role for 2 weeks was very fulfilling. I was instantly made part of the team and was taking part in chemistry "wet work" from day one. I felt I was polite and helpful during my two-week placement and that I was a useful part of the team.

Can you describe any new skills which you have learnt which you did not expect?

I would not say I developed any new skills during my two weeks however, I certainly got to hone my previously acquired skills, especially my team working and communication skills. This was a very good opportunity to use skills that I would be expected to use day to day in future employment.

Do you feel this work opportunity has helped you overcome any barriers?

I felt the main barriers to my employment was not having any contacts in the industry and also not knowing what future employers would be looking for. Through this GO Wales placement, I have made some industry specific contacts (I have added them on linkedin) and although I didn't really see any of the recruitment process, I would say that I have successfully overcome my barriers to employment.



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What are/have been the highlights of working at this placement?

I got to take part in a trial that took place on a 700 litre scale. This was my highlight, as I have never done a chemical reaction on such a large scale before. It was interesting to see so many chemicals added in such large quantities and the process was quite challenging as there was no written manual on how to perform such a reaction, so problem solving skills were needed to try and figure out how to set up the different aspects of the reaction process.

What advice would you give to students who are thinking about applying to GO Wales?

If you are eligible this is one hundred percent a scheme you should get involved in. The advisors are very helpful and very skilled in getting you industry specific work experience. Without the GO Wales scheme I would still be facing my barriers to employment.

How did you find the support you received during your placement?

The support during my placement has been great. My advisor Jo was always contactable, very helpful and worked diligently to find me a placement. I had meetings before and after my placement providing advice and really getting me to think about the skills that I had acquired from being on my placement. Jo also provided great advice for setting applicable objectives and she was very thorough when we were doing paperwork.

Overall this placement and my time with the GO Wales team has been great. I enjoyed both of the placements that I took part in and the support provided by the team. They have certainly helped me move forward and I hope in the future, I can report back to them with how useful their help has been.

The GO Wales advisor stated “it has been a pleasure to support the student to gain both research and industry experience. He has gained a good insight into working within as part of a Research and Development team. We are really pleased with his progress and feel confident that he will continue to do very well on his career journey. We wish him every success for the future.”

The HR Officer at Warwick Chemicals stated “This GO Wales placement gave a member of our staff the opportunity to manage a small research programme, practicing and developing skills in planning, health and safety managing and developing a working relationship with the student. Developing links with the Department of Chemistry at Bangor was also very valuable.”

