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PGT Employability Roundup.

This is the first edition of the Employability Newsletter for the 2018/19 academic year. It is produced by the Employability, Careers & Alumni intern. This newsletter will serve to advertise upcoming events that are all about enhancing your employability. As Master's students you are now becoming experts in your field, and naturally this reveals a good number of figurative doors. But it is about knowing where to find the Key!

The University of Manchester Careers Service, in tandem with the School of Biological Sciences, arrange many events throughout the academic year. They will help you explore new options post-graduation and in some cases, put you in contact with employers and alumni in various sectors. For example, Meet the Professionals is a great networking event; more information is contained in this very newsletter.

This issue will feature [an interview](#) with Charlie. He is a UoM alumnus now working at 4D Pharma, a drugs company based out of Leeds who focus on live biotherapeutics and the microbiome. This will give you an insight into the career path of one of our former Master's students.

Also in this issue, I visited [The Big Careers Fair](#). Careers fairs are a great way to understand what's on offer for graduates. They provide you with a great opportunity to speak to graduate employers and current employees at large firms or institutions. We have our own School of Biological Sciences careers fair coming up on 21 February which is specifically focussed on employers

for bioscientists – make sure that you don't miss out! Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

I also attended a [PGT presentation](#) featuring three top employers that occurred in early November. There is information in this newsletter about what happened here as well as useful links in the article to the careers pages of the companies that attended.

This newsletter is "employability" focused but you may be looking to do a PhD before you enter employment. The [Interview Workshop for potential PhD students](#) occurred this month and helped students with their applications for PhD programmes. They got the chance to speak to current PhD students and get some tips, as well as hear expert advice for interview success.

As you complete your Master's degree, it is a good idea to keep up to date with the various events that are coming up. They will allow you to get a broad picture of the landscape of post-graduate employment.

Harry Lord-Moulding

Employability, Careers & Alumni Intern





“

***A Master's degree
can give you
a competitive
edge...***

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Postgraduate Careers Presentation.

As Master's students, you are essentially left with two main options: continue your education through a PhD, or enter the world of work. A PhD can lead you to a career in research or academia, so if you have found your true calling while at university, you may be keen to pursue this. Entering the world of work with a Master's degree can give you a competitive edge and allow you into specialist fields.

In 2015-16, over 80% of FBMH PGT graduates were either in full-time employment, further education or working and studying after just six months.

The award-winning careers service here at UoM has so many great resources to help you with the next step in your life. For example, they offer one-to-one advice sessions in which you can discuss your career plans as well as interview simulations and applications and CV advice. They also run a huge array of events throughout the year including workshops and fairs

specifically aimed at PGT students.

Last month, I attended a School of Biological Sciences PGT careers presentation. It gave myself and PGT students an insight into popular career pathways with guests from Alderley Park, the NHS and QIAGEN. These represent a range of potential career options within and outside the lab. Alderley Park is a large science park in Macclesfield that houses and facilitates pharmaceutical companies and related companies in industries such as medical communications. The NHS offers Clinical Scientist as well as management roles and QIAGEN naturally have a wide variety of opportunities, from bench science roles to business and operations roles. An example of a medical communications company at Alderley Park is Helios. They offer marketing services to pharmaceutical companies releasing new drugs. This industry offers you a chance to use your scientific knowledge and mid-set, without being at the bench.

You will get the chance to meet representatives from these firms and others at a couple of our upcoming events. This includes Meet the Professionals on 29 November as well as at our school careers fair which is occurring on 21 February.



ALDERLEY PARK
53° 16' 46" N 002° 14' 12" W



Meet the Professionals . PhD Workshop .

Networking is a huge part of making yourself employable. It involves meeting people in industry or academia who can become contacts and forming professional relationships with them. They can then offer advice and insight, as well as potentially recommending you for positions.

Meet the Professionals is an event put on by the School of Biological Sciences where you can try out your networking skills! After a successful November event, the next one is planned for **7 February**. This will be a great opportunity to form connections with UoM alumni who work in an industry you are interested in. It works like speed-dating, initially spending ten minutes with each professional, followed by more networking over drinks and snacks. It gives you the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about how graduates progress after university.

I attended one of these events as a student last year, and it was very valuable for making professional connections. One piece of advice I would give is to make sure you have a LinkedIn account, so that you can easily contact the professionals after the event. Make sure to register in advance! Further details about the next event will be sent to you via email nearer the time.

One potential pathway after you complete your Master's degree is to pursue a PhD. This is ideal for you if you wish to pursue a career in research or academia. When working towards your Master's, consider how passionate you are about certain areas of your degree (as PhDs are often very specific). If you are passionate enough, then perhaps this will prove a highly rewarding pathway.

This month we held a PhD workshop for students interested in pursuing this path. The Careers Service gave advice about the application process and there was also a panel of current and past PhD students who can give a very valuable insight into life as a PhD student, as well as tips for the application and interview process. If you are interested in a PhD, I encourage you to speak to any current or past students about their experience - they will likely be very willing to help!

Top tips from the session included using the website [Find a PhD](#) to search for potential projects at UK universities. The website also includes lots of information about the application and interview process. Also, remember that the PhD interview is not only about science - you should prepare for it like any other interview!

You should fully research the funding options. There are [studentships](#) on offer at The University of Manchester which are funded PhD programmes that are associated with various institutions such as the British Heart Foundation.

You can also use the University's [Project Search tool](#) to look for PhDs. You can filter here by subject and by supervisor and it's another good place to do your preliminary research.



The Big Careers Fair.

At the start of the year I attended The Big Careers Fair. It was put on by the Careers Service and featured over 80 graduate employers. It occurred over two days at the Central Convention Centre in the city centre which will give you an idea as to how big it really was!

I visited the fair on day 2, which was particularly targeted at STEM students and graduates. Companies such as GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca were advertising their graduate programmes which were especially appropriate for biological sciences students. They have science based roles and opportunities in other areas such as operations and business, which are open to everyone.

As well as science and pharmaceutical companies, there were banks and professional services firms such as EY. Many students I speak to want to pursue a career outside of the lab, so it is important not to forget that many professional careers are open to scientists. Firms such as these offer great graduate programmes for anyone with a degree but told me they actively seek out science graduates because of the great transferable skills. They also want to recruit people with different

FUJIFILM

You may associate FUJIFILM with cameras (like I did), but they have many different branches

of business. Diosynth Biotechnologies deal with cell culture technologies and recombinant protein production. This includes things like antibodies. I chose them to feature here because I had not heard of them, despite their line of work. They are based in the North East of England near Middlesbrough but also have bases in Cambridge and sites in Texas and North Carolina, US. Very worth a look into if you're interested in this field!

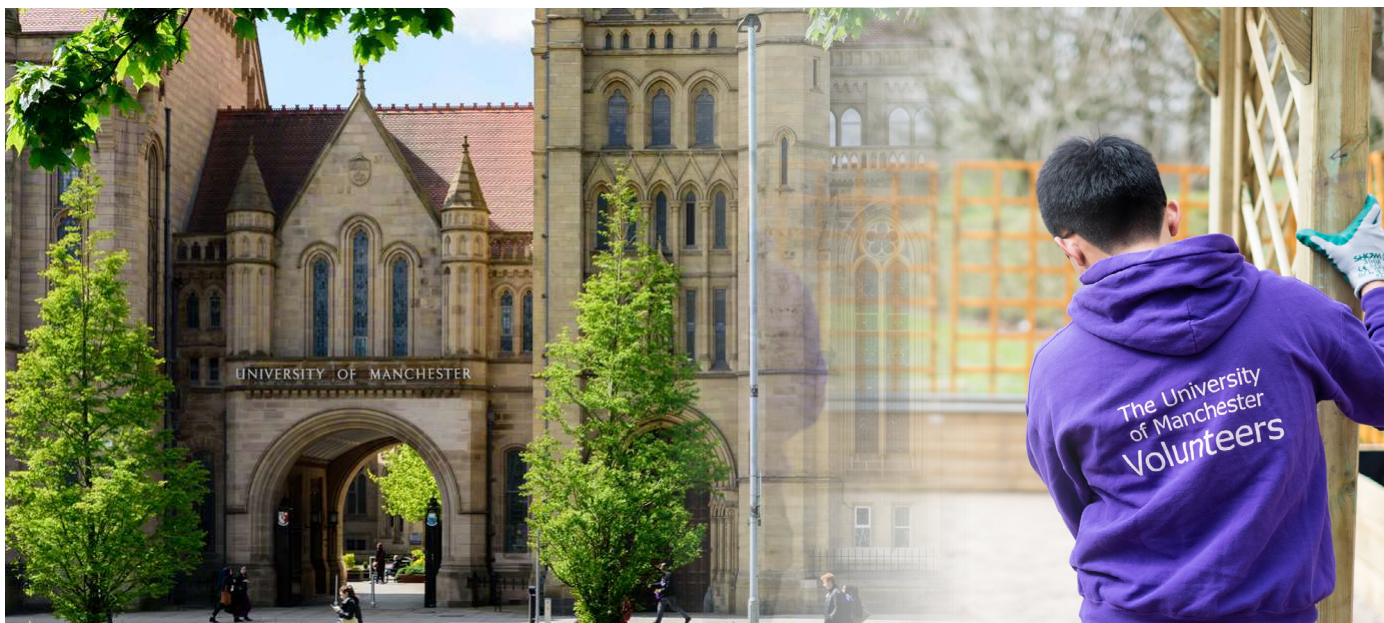
Diosynth biotechnologies

knowledge bases and mind-sets. This is enhanced further by having a Master's degree.

It is worth noting that many of these graduate programmes are open for application now, and the positions often begin in September 2019.



Volunteering & Social Justice Fair.



Studying at university is not only a time for developing your knowledge and academic prowess, it is a valuable time for personal development and an opportunity to expand your mind and interests.

Whilst volunteering is a great addition to any CV and will be highly respected by employers, you shouldn't only be doing it for this reason. If you are, then you probably won't get the most out of it. Furthermore, if you're only getting involved in volunteering for the employability benefits, this will likely come across when you're invariably asked about your experience in job interviews so make sure when you are looking at opportunities, you pick something that you are passionate about and can commit to! Volunteering should be about broadening your mind, your interests and giving back to the community in some way.

I visited the Volunteering and Social Justice Fair in October to get an idea of how a student (or anyone) can give back. There were a huge number of students attending who were keen to find out about volunteering opportunities around Manchester. They ranged from the likes of nuclear disarmament to LGBT issues and to the preservation of The Monastery in East Manchester. There were real opportunities to contribute to a cause that may be your burning passion. As well as the charities I mentioned already, there were others related to conservation

and healthcare that may be of particular interest to bioscientists. These included the RSPB, which is a conservation charity that works throughout the UK and internationally to protect habitats and save endangered birds and wildlife. Also attending were Cancer Research UK, the Alzheimer's society and the British Heart Foundation. If you have a passion for these charities or are interested in the illnesses they combat, you could really contribute by becoming a volunteer. If you missed the fair, don't worry; these organisations will be more than happy to take volunteers at all times of the year, and you could contact their Manchester branch.

You can find more general information about volunteering [here](#).

“ **Pick something you are passionate about!** ”

Interview.

Charlie, what made you choose your master's degree in Biotechnology & Enterprise?

I was interested in a career in science but away from the lab, and this course provided an excellent combination of commercial understanding as well as scientific content relevant to the biotech industry. I also did my undergraduate degree at Manchester so was aware of the cutting edge research going on and the facilities available to me for my Master's research project.

What did you enjoy most about your master's?

The small class size meant 1) we became a close group and 2) could freely ask questions and have discussions during lectures.

How do you think your master's enhanced your employability?

'Commercial awareness' is an increasingly common buzz word in application processes. The master's was a very clear demonstration of my ability in this area in addition to the specific scientific content which may be more or less relevant depending on a given company's particular area. The combination of independent and group work is also attractive to some employers (though some more than others).

Can you tell us about your current position at 4D Pharma and how you got into it?

I started my current position as a three-month internship, circulated to me by one of our course leaders. The internship acted as an extended trial period and I was offered a permanent position. My role as a commercial analyst is largely desk-based secondary research, it is very varied (a benefit of working for a smaller company) and encompasses market analyses, competitor intelligence research, business development activities including attending conferences, intellectual property research, communications, and working internally with our Finance, IP and Clinical Operations teams.

Charlie Badham completed his Msc in Biotechnology and Enterprise and now works for 4D Pharma.

Where do you see yourself in five years' time?

4D is a relatively young company and is evolving significantly, even in my one and a half years here. I have enjoyed being part of this process, and the diversity and level of responsibility of the work I do. I look forward to continuing here at 4D as the company grows and develops. That said, things can be hard to predict in biotech.

Any advice for current master's students?

Try to plan ahead to avoid nasty surprises, late nights and lost weekends, as workload might not be evenly distributed throughout the year. Good communication with your team makes everything easier. And make sure you have a life outside your studies (the research project can become particularly all-consuming as deadlines approach).



“ ***An excellent combination of commercial understanding and scientific content.*** ”