Helping you get hired

Cogent’s Placements service

Lara le Court (Cogent)

Cogent’s Placements service is a Government-backed programme, led by employers, developed specifically to increase the number of student and graduate placements being offered in the science-based industries.

Working alongside students, academia and industry, Cogent bridges the gap between education and employment. It is committed to dealing with the increasing skills gap in the science industries and encouraging employers to invest in the next generation of young scientists.

Employers say that work experience is important when recruiting. Cogent’s Placements service will help you to make the transition from university to the workplace and gain the skills employers want.

It offers summer, sandwich, short-term and long-term placements for undergraduates and graduates across all life science disciplines. In addition, it advertises a wide variety of opportunities available within both office and laboratory-based settings. These include roles from research and development to marketing and quality assurance. Whomever you undertake your placement with, Cogent ensures that you are being treated as a member of the team, with real responsibilities to deliver crucial business tasks.

There are many benefits to securing a placement with Cogent, including gaining vital work experience that employers seek when hiring graduates, sampling a chosen career before committing to it on a long-term basis, accessing a paid placement so you can earn while learning, and benefitting from Cogent’s support in finding and securing a placement.

If you are successful in gaining a placement, Cogent offers a support system with regular reviews offering advice, support and feedback on your performance, keeping you moving in the right direction. If you are unsuccessful in your application, we provide constructive comments and suggestions, helping you to prepare for future opportunities.

Chandni Kerai completed a 3-month placement in public affairs and communications at the Bio Industry Association (BIA) after graduating, and described how her placement was instrumental in choosing a career and securing a full-time job.

Chandni had never previously thought about entering the public affairs and communications sector. The exposure to this role led to her getting a full-time job for the global communications team for GE Healthcare.

She said, “If it were not for my placement, I would be none the wiser as to what public affairs and communications had to do with life sciences. The placement put me in a really good place, in terms of career, to progress in the field and without it I would not have been offered a position with GE Healthcare. I am grateful for the guidance and opportunities I have been given by both my colleagues at the BIA and Cogent’s Placements service.”

To register for updates on new placement opportunities, visit www.cogent-placements.com. Cogent also offers CV and cover letter advice.

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