

Placement year profile

Jamie

Jamie did a professional placement year with AstraZeneca in Sweden



“When I arrived at university I knew a career in research appealed to me. However I wanted to gain some first-hand experience before committing to a PhD.

I was accepted for a lab-based industrial placement with **AstraZeneca in Sweden**, where I was responsible for two technology development projects.

With supervision from experienced research scientists I planned, carried out and analysed data from experiments. This included defining the direction in which the project moved when challenges arose (which they inevitably did!). This was daunting at first, but I quickly began to enjoy encountering and working around these challenges. They forced me to look more deeply at the underlying science I was working with, which in turn has taught me how to carry out techniques more efficiently. During the year **I have refined skills from university** (for example carrying out multiple, subtly different protein purifications) and also **learned to use new equipment** (e.g. Biacore) and new pieces of statistical software.

The experience of **presenting my research in various settings has been invaluable**. I presented to my team on numerous occasions, but also to external collaborators and senior leaders. Attending presentations and conferences in different AstraZeneca disease areas has been a fantastic way to expand my knowledge base.

Living and working abroad has been an amazing experience too. It has shown me the impact culture can have on science, and given me the opportunity to learn some Swedish and travel throughout Scandinavia!

I now have first-hand experience of a career in pharmaceutical research, but have also been exposed to other areas of the pharmaceutical industry. This has given me a far broader perspective as I start to plan for my **future career in patent law**.”