

# 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**.”