

## Placement year profile - GSK

# Kristi

I studied **Pharmacology** and graduated from the School of Biomedical Sciences, Newcastle University in July 2016.

During my time at Newcastle I undertook an industrial placement year at **GlaxoSmithKline**. The staff at Newcastle were **incredibly supportive** during the application process and throughout the placement. I was placed in the Synthetic Biochemistry group within the Biological Sciences department.

I was able to work with a variety of people, learn a variety of techniques and also collaborate with other European Universities on a project which will hopefully be published in the future.

By doing this, I learned transferable lab skills which could be applied to a variety of scientific topics. I also became a lot more confident in my presentation skills and report-writing which were invaluable when I returned to university and for my dissertation.

Working full-time in a research environment gave me a unique insight into the Pharmaceutical industry and scientific research, which really helped me when applying for PhD positions. I am currently studying a **PhD at King's College London** and because of my work experience I did **not** have to do a Masters before my PhD.

### **Kristi's advice**

Even if you aren't sure about whether a career in research is for you, try a placement! You have nothing to lose by applying, and in my case **I wasn't 100% sure** I wanted to even do a placement until I went for interviews, where I found out more about the role and saw the facilities I would be working in – from which point **I was sold!**

**Doing a placement is a great way to get an insight** into the life of a researcher which can help you firstly decide whether you would like to continue a career in lab-work, but it also exposes you to many other job roles within the science sector, for example patent law, procurement and management. **A year in industry looks great on your CV**, gives you loads to talk about in interviews, and helps you make informed decisions about what career path you would like to follow next.

The only downside is that you will return to Newcastle a year behind your cohort, so bear that in mind when you make your decision.

