

Placements

Working Group Summary
September 2011

Placements

- **Chair – Malcolm Skingle, GlaxoSmithKline**
- Members
- Jim Gazzard The Royal Veterinary College
- Rachel Stewart University of Reading
- Rhoswyn Walker Medical Research Council
- Sarah Jones The Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry
- Harry Kelly GlaxoSmithKline
- David Adams Cogent

Suggested additional members –
more SME companies, EPSRC, BBSRC and Wellcome Trust

Terms of Reference signed off

Objective: ***To develop a an increase in placements of various forms across the Life sciences sector***

Placements

Terms of Reference

The Placements Working Group has been established to facilitate active discussion between employers and education providers seeking the delivery of solutions to aid an increase in placements of various forms across the Life sciences sector.

- For reference, placements are defined as:
- Undergraduate placements (short to year in industry/research facilities)
- Internships
- Postgraduate placements (including CASE-type studentships)
- Placement exchange between industry and higher education institutions

The Group will consider existing good practice through these placement models, investigate incentives for future placements, map and co-ordinate information about placements, inform the benefits of placements to all parties, determine and provide solutions barriers to entry, and investigate the specific needs of the SME community.

The Group will also provide a forum to develop ONE VOICE on placements in the life science industry, whilst determining the future skills that businesses need, and developing a collaborative approach to meet the challenges facing employers and education providers. This work will be used to inform and be co-ordinated with the work of the Future Skills working group.

- The Group will provide commentary and support for Cogent's bids to the future Growth Innovation Funds. With the shared ambition of raising standards and sharing best practice with others, avenues such as accreditation, kite marking and graduate employability will be considered in order to raise work experience opportunities.
- The Group will also consider recommendations and responses to policy that affect work experience opportunities through universities, and address the specific impact of student fees on placements. This will also be coordinated through responses to the review being undertaken by Sir Tim Wilson.
- The Group will consider datasets that offer an opportunity to monitor and measure placements, and their impact.

Key Issues: Placements Overall (2007 to 2009)

- 33% decrease in undergraduate placements
 - Major pharmaceutical industries dominate, with 3 largest companies offering 80% of placements
- Stable PhD studentships
 - Stable numbers, but a reduction of 13% supported by industry
- Increase in Postdoctoral research collaboration
 - 50% of post doctoral researchers not supported by industry funding
 - Full economic costing models at universities have reduced collaboration and increased academic consultation – one way flow of knowledge from university into company
- Major University players are:
 - Manchester, Imperial College London, Oxford and Cambridge
- Companies are investing overseas
 - 25% of reported postdoctoral grants were awarded to overseas institutions
- Sharing Costs through joint ventures has increased collaboration in the UK

Ref: ABPI Industry/Academic Links Survey 2009

Key Issues:

Undergraduate Placements (2007 to 2009)



- Dramatic decrease in placement opportunities
 - 530 in 2007; 355 in 2009
 - 24% of these are through universities in Bath and Manchester
- Site closures and restructuring blamed
- Placements are costly:
 - Fully funded by industry
 - Students need training to adjust to workplace requirements
- Likely reduction in highly skilled graduates
 - New graduates lack core practical skills
 - Universities need employers to deliver skills
 - Placements increase analytical and employability skills, and students are more numerically adept
- Encourage SME uptake and Effective Coordination

Ref: ABPI Industry/Academic Links Survey 2009



Placements: The Definition

- Undergraduate placements (short to year in industry/research facilities)
- Internships
- Postgraduate placements (including CASE-type studentships)
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Working Group: Key Objectives

- Map and coordinate information about placements
- Investigate and champion examples of best practice
- Seek to incentivise placement opportunities
- Raise work experience opportunities
- Publicise benefits of placements
- Determine barriers to uptake and provide solutions
- Link to accreditation, kite marking and graduate employability
- Investigate the specific needs of the SME community
- Consider data to effectively monitor and measure placements and their impact



Working Group: Key Objectives

- Engagement with Professor Sir Tim Wilson
Review of Industry engagement with Higher
Education in October/ November 2012
- Examine effects of tuition fees on
undergraduate placements and make
recommendations to Government by the end
of the year
- Strengthen engagement with Professional
Bodies

