

# Life Science Employability Programme

## What is the Life Science CV competition?

The CV competition is for students in their first, second and third year of a Life Sciences subject at any Edinburgh or Glasgow institution (see list on the reverse). The students submit a CV that is judged by an expert industry panel. The successful candidates progress to interview stage with the winners securing a 12-week work placement.

## Why has it been introduced?

The project has been proposed in response to industry concerns that graduates are not adequately prepared for the world of work and, specifically, that their CVs are considered by industry to fall below the expected standards.

There is also a strategic fit with the SDS Life Sciences Skills Investment Plan, aligning with the first theme of Building Graduate Work Readiness which identifies a number of issues relating to graduate work readiness.

## How does it work?

Students submit a CV that is judged by industry experts. The prize for winning the competition will be a 12-week placement during the summer with a Life Sciences employer to carry out a specific project. The project can be technical or commercial in nature.

## Who can take part?

Any Life Science company in the Glasgow or Edinburgh region that has the capacity to take a student for at least 12 weeks during the summer.

## How is it funded?

SDS will contribute to 50% of the cost of this project. In 2014/15, the cost associated with this will be £1,420 per student placement prize. The remaining 50% of the cost of placements will be funded by the companies providing the placements. This will also cover marketing and promotion, plus the awards ceremony involved with the project

## Outcomes

The immediate output from this project will be a higher calibre of CV from students graduating with a Life Sciences qualification. The overall ambition for this project is much wider:

- Students will give much greater consideration to the career paths they may be interested in and the most effective routes into any chosen area;
- Students will also become much more aware of what industry needs and expects from graduates and how best to communicate these competencies to potential employers;
- Participating students will obtain a better understanding of the diversity of job opportunities within Life Sciences companies;
- Scottish Life Science employers will have access to some of the strongest candidates coming out of higher education;
- Participating employers will get an early look at some of our future stars;
- Industry will become more confident about employing locally;
- Establish strong links between industry, SDS and career advisers to ensure that students have support to develop strong CVs.

## Project launch

Project launch – 5th November at Glasgow Caledonian University.

## Institutions involved

### WEST

- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Glasgow University
- The University of Strathclyde
- Glasgow Kelvin College.

### EAST

- Edinburgh Napier
- University of Edinburgh
- Heriot-Watt University
- Queen Margaret University
- Edinburgh College.

## How can I get involved?

Please contact Ronnie Palin at [ronnie.palin@sds.co.uk](mailto:ronnie.palin@sds.co.uk)

