

## RSC HE Initiatives Update – April 2005

- **Industry Tours for Postgraduates**

Two Industry Tour events have taken place this academic year. The first was during November and 19 postgraduate students visited Pfizer, Quest and Lilly in Kent. The second tour took place during April and involved tours of Thomas Swan (Consett), GlaxoSmithKline (Barnard Castle) and Merck Sharp and Dohme (Cramlington).

A European Study Tour in conjunction with the German Chemical Society (GDCh) will take place from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> of June. 10 UK and 10 German postgraduate students will attend the tour which will begin in Düsseldorf with a tour of Bayer and Henkel. The students will then return to the UK for a tour of Unilever (Port Sunlight) and AstraZeneca (Alderley Edge).

A further UK tour will take place during November 2005. Details of the tour will be made available on the RSC website in the near future.

- ***Got a Degree? What next...***

The text for the updated version of the careers guidance document *Got a Degree? What next* has now been finalised. The publication is currently being designed and will be available very soon.

- **Undergraduate and Postgraduate Skills Records**

Dr Josephine Tunney visited York University during December 2004 to give a presentation to the 1<sup>st</sup> year postgraduates about the Postgraduate Skills Record (PSR). More university visits will take place during 2005 and if any departments would like a presentation on the use of Progress Files, please contact Dr Josephine Tunney (email [tunneyj@rsc.org](mailto:tunneyj@rsc.org), Tel 020 7440 3348).

Dr Tunney also gave a presentation about the PSR to academics from the Midlands at a UK GRAD Personal Development Planning workshop in December 2004.

- ***Mathematics in Chemistry Degree Courses***

A survey was undertaken to determine the relevance and usefulness of this publication. This results of the survey indicated that significant modifications are required.

A meeting of *ca.* 30 HE chemists took place in November 2004 to discuss how university chemistry departments should respond to the varying mathematics skills of chemical science undergraduates. The meeting was organised by the RSC Faraday Division, the RSC Education Division and the Higher Education Academy Physical Sciences Centre. Following this meeting it has been agreed that the Education

Department will work closely with the Faraday Division to further review the *Mathematics in Chemistry Degree Courses* document and to seek additional ways in which we can provide support and resources for departments.

- **Collection of HE data – number of BSc and MSci/MChem graduates 2004**

A questionnaire has been circulated for the annual update of HE statistics. There has been a good response to the questionnaire – data from three institutions is currently outstanding.

- **Higher Education Careers Advisers Workshop**

A workshop to inform HE Careers Advisers on opportunities for graduates of the chemical sciences will be taking place on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at Burlington House. This is a joint initiative with the Careers Department and it is planned that a series of presentations from industrial representatives will be given, along with information relating to chemical science PhDs and careers in academia. A presentation will also be given on the careers guidance the RSC can offer.

- **Higher Education Careers Fairs**

Ideas for a series of HE Careers fairs for chemical science undergraduates and postgraduates are currently being explored. It is hoped that a national event will take place in the autumn of 2005, to be followed by a number of regional events in 2006.

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