

RSC HE Initiatives Update – October 2005

- **Higher Education Careers Advisers Conference**

Over 30 Careers Advisers from universities across the UK visited Burlington House on 11 July for a conference on careers for chemical scientists. The aim of the conference was to inform delegates of some of the employment opportunities for chemical science graduates and to offer them support in their roles as advisers to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Presentations on opportunities within the pharmaceutical industry were provided by Stuart Young of GlaxoSmithKline and David Alker of Pfizer. David Moreton from Lubrizol discussed careers in the fuel and lubricant industry, and Lee Peck from Nexia Solutions described the employment prospects for chemists in the nuclear industry. Each of the presentations highlighted the skills and attributes sought by graduate employers in these sectors, and the level of qualifications required in each field.

The conference also featured an explanation of the role of the patent attorney given by Ivor Harrison from Withers and Rogers LLP (patent and trademark attorneys), and a discussion of the career paths of PhD graduates was led by Charlie Ball from Graduate Prospects.

The conference was well received by the delegates attending.

- **Parents guide**

Chemistry degree courses – a guide for parents 2005/06 will be published during October. The guide describes the variety of chemistry degrees available at UK universities and includes information on the opportunities to study in industry and abroad. It also describes the wide range of careers available to graduates and highlights the potential financial rewards of studying chemistry.

Copies of the booklet will be sent to admissions tutors so that it can be distributed to parents during UCAS days. It will also be sent to all UK schools and colleges, and further copies will be available on request.

- **Industry Tours for Postgraduates**

A European Study Tour in conjunction with the German Chemical Society (GDCh) took place from the 5th – 9th of June. 20 students from the UK and Germany attended the tour which began in Düsseldorf with a tour of Bayer and Henkel. The students then returned 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 (www.rsc.org/education/HEstudents)

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

This careers guidance publication was published in August and sent to all student members of the RSC. It contains information on:

- Finding a job
- How to make yourself more employable
- Recognising and developing your skills, strengths and attributes
- Guidelines on CV writing
- How to complete application forms
- Interview preparation
- Further study options

- **Employment conference**

This will take place on Saturday 11 November 2006 in the Great Hall, Birmingham University. The conference will involve presentations and workshops exploring career opportunities for chemical science graduates, and a large employer exhibition. Further details will be made available in due course.

- **Undergraduate Skills Record (USR)**

An updated version of the USR has been made available for the 2005/06 academic year. Requests for copies have been received from around 15 universities.

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