

Case Study Profile

Placements, Internships & Volunteering

Thank you for agreeing to share your experience with us. The Careers and Employability Service invites you to answer the following questions. Please return your completed document with a professional photograph (if included) to Louisa Lawrie (louisa.lawrie1@abdn.ac.uk).

Please indicate if you would prefer us to anonymise your name or the name of the organisation for the case study (underline yes or no): YES (anonymise) / NO (not required)

About you:	
Name	Mark Richer
Degree programme	Pharmacology
Current year of study (e.g. third year)	Fifth Year
Email address	U16mr15@abdn.ac.uk
About your internship/placement/volunteering work	
What was your role and the name of the organisation?	Role: Primary Pharmacology Scientist Organization: GlaxoSmithKline
Please briefly describe your employer (e.g. size of the organisation, the area you worked in and the location)	GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is the sixth largest pharmaceutical company in the world. Currently, the company has three major business areas which include pharmaceuticals, vaccines and consumer healthcare products. I worked in biopharmaceutical molecular discovery in Stevenage (UK) at GSK's main pharmaceutical research and development HUB.
How did you find out about your internship, placement or volunteering opportunity?	I found out about the opportunity during one of the lectures on the (BT3006) Working Out: Placement and Career Skills course.
Describe your main duties, tasks and responsibilities.	My main responsibilities were to develop, validate and run protein-protein and cell-based flow cytometry assays to identify HIT antibodies from an antibody library.
What was the highlight of your experience? Why?	The highlight of my experience was being able to completely develop a high-throughput miniaturized assay from scratch and then transfer it to a biotechnology company based in China, where it was then used to screen libraries of antibodies against an oncology target.
What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about completing an internship, placement or volunteering in this area?	As large pharmaceutical companies offer placements in a very wide variety of roles, my biggest advice would be to really research all the available roles to find out which one is the most interesting and relevant for you. Doing so makes a huge difference as it can establish future connections while providing useful experience for one's future career.
Is there anything you wish you knew about before completing your internship, placement or volunteering?	I wish I knew more about the interdisciplinary opportunities that one can explore to learn about other non-scientific roles while on placement for a large company.
Additional comments	I encourage everyone to pursue an industrial placement as it provides invaluable experience while gaining a concrete overview about the possibilities for employment upon graduation.

CONSENT FORM: CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

The University of Aberdeen may wish to use the information you provide and photograph(s) (if provided). This information may be made publicly available in any University media including publications, University website (www.abdn.ac.uk) and social media pages. I understand that the text supplied, or extracts from it, may be edited according to house style.

We would be grateful if you could sign below to confirm that you consent to the above use:

Your name (print): Mark Richer

Signed: _____

Date: 11/02/2020