

# Going to a careers fair

A careers fair can be an invaluable opportunity for students. These fairs can provide information about potential jobs, postgraduate study and society memberships. They can help with general career information such as writing a CV, and introduce you to ideas and career paths you didn't even know about. Careers days can give you the chance to meet working scientists, to learn about what their daily routine is like and how they ended up in their particular job.

The Royal Society of Biology holds an annual Biosciences Careers Day in London for students all over the UK. Two students have written about their visit to last year's event; find out about the talks and workshops they attended and why they found the day beneficial.

We will have our very own Life Sciences Careers Conference in November so keep an eye out for that!

## Royal Society of Biology's Annual Careers Day

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I am currently in my third year of studying a Biological and Medical sciences bachelor's degree at the University of Liverpool. I chose to attend the Royal Society of Biology's Annual Careers Day with the anticipation to expand my knowledge and comprehension on the various careers available within the industry. I initially found out about the event through the 'CareerHub' website run by the Careers

Team. I found the event extremely helpful and inspiring, it has developed my understanding of the career pathways available to undergraduate students.

One of my favourite aspects of the Careers Day was attending a speed networking activity with various scientists in different fields. The scientists each had different backgrounds and interests, varying from conservation to medical sciences. It was inspirational to learn about how they achieved their current post and to see how they have grown within the industry. Additionally, it was interesting to learn about their current job roles, including their responsibilities and quirks of the job.

The event held an exhibition with representatives from various professional societies and top organisations. I found this extremely valuable because it gave me an insight into the various companies that are recruiting undergraduate students and the different career paths that are available. I also gained information about the various memberships that are available; the memberships allow you to follow/receive regular updates from societies or companies that interest you.

There were various talks from expert speakers across different sectors. I found the conservation science talk very memorable because the speaker opened up about their previous fears of finding a job in the conservation industry following graduation. Additionally, another talk from a speaker practicing medicine expressed how they went from a pharmaceutical scientist to a doctor specialising in pharmaceutical science. I found it fascinating how career pathways can be interchangeable and how you can convey your skills from one career and utilise them in a different career.

There was a talk on industry vs educational pathways, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of each. This talk opened my eyes to an educational career pathway, one that I had never considered before. Additionally, it showed me that these two distinct career pathways can be interchangeable and how to utilise each of these career pathways.

I also attended a talk based on CV writing. The lead speaker who delivered this talk worked in recruitment and so had high levels of expertise on what makes a successful application. During this talk I learnt about 'transferable skills', this is the utilisation of previous skill sets to the job you're applying for. I found this beneficial, as it has given me the ability to transfer my previous skill set to the job I am wishing to apply for.

To conclude, I found the event very valuable, informative and would highly recommend it to future years. ■