Akzo Nobel Careers
Shadowing Day
WHAT WE DID AT AKZONOBEL

Analytical lab:
- Given a problem analytical chemists for AkzoNobel would have to solve.
- Tested samples of paint to see which was faulty and why. Tests included NMR, IR and many other analytical techniques.
- Good chance to experience a lab in a working environment.

Innovation exercise:
- We were challenged to come up with a solution to make the production and transport of their paints for ships to be more efficient economically, ecologically and spatially.
- Another opportunity to experience actual issues faced on the job and come up with solutions for a current problem AkzoNobel are facing.
What we learned and observed

• Observed high technology equipment
  • Ex: Spectrophotometer, Centrifuge Machines, Chromatography Machines, etc.

• Learned
  • About a lot of precautions that need to be taken before using these equipment.
  • A few hands on techniques
  • Even though they have a net worth of €832 million, do not have the best equipment they need.
  • Due to extremely expensive instrumental costs.
Something that surprised us...

- Fire awareness/protection tour in the afternoon was a massive surprise as it was completely different from what everyone has expected. The hands-on work that we have done was completely different from handling chemicals.

- Akzo Nobel is not just all about Chemicals
  - Designing a much more environmentally and economically friendly tins for paints
  - Analytical tour/experience in the morning was what was expected, but different kinds of machines were very surprising
  - Who would’ve thought that this company wasn’t just all about serious Chemistry stuff. This was a very fun exercise for everyone
  - Just like different kinds on microscope and the gigantic NMR machine that looks like a ride in an amusement park.
  - The application of paint wasn’t really what we have expected to do but it was what most of us in the group have enjoyed!
  - What actually surprised us is that it wasn’t really all about serious chemistry “stuff” but it offers a wide range of jobs around.

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How did this experience help?

- Learned about new job possibilities previously unknown.
- Gained valuable experience for C.V.
- Got to speak with people about their careers.
- Gained an idea of what working for Akzo Nobel is actually like.
- Helpful for choosing right career path.
- Hands on experience of lab and factory work.