What is a professional placement year?
A professional placement year is an optional 9-12 month placement taken after your 2nd year, in which students work full-time for a company in the life sciences sector, gaining invaluable work experience and transferable skills.

Why take a professional placement year?
- Valuable paid work experience relevant to your degree.
- Gain relevant skills in your field of interest.
- Great opportunity to ‘try out’ working in industry for a year.
- Build a network of professional contacts – useful for future career opportunities.

Does my role need to be scientific?
Providing it is in the life science sector, your placement can be lab-based, office-based, or clinical. It can include sales, marketing, human resources, regulatory affairs and more, as well as practical roles.
You might rotate between departments and could get the chance to visit other sites.
Our Careers Service and dedicated placement officers can provide advice and guidance on your applications.

What sort of companies could I work for?
Our students often work for a range of companies, from SMEs (small to medium sized enterprises), to large corporations. These include both local (UK-based) and international destinations.
Previous placement destinations include: AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, L’Oreal, Reckitt, Johnson & Johnson, Proctor and Gamble, and many more.

Giulia
BSc Biomedical Genetics with Placement Year
“Working on an active drug discovery project during my placement was exciting and will empower me to make a more informed decision about my future career. I would definitely recommend a placement!”

Natasha
BSc Biomedical Sciences with Placement Year
“My placement year taught me so many invaluable skills and built my confidence. I built a network of experts working in my relevant field and this has been very helpful in seeking postgraduate job opportunities.”

Read more on our website: