



**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**

SCHOOL OF  
BIOLOGICAL  
SCIENCES

# WORK PLACEMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMMES

**SHAPING  
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WORLD  
SINCE 1845**

**RUSSELL  
GROUP**

# WORKING WITH QUEEN'S



**WORLD LEADING RESEARCH JOINT 8TH IN THE UK FOR RESEARCH INTENSITY**

(REF 2014/ TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION)



**QUEEN'S IS RANKED IN THE TOP 160 IN THE WORLD FOR GRADUATE PROSPECTS**

(QS GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY RANKINGS 2019)



**QUEEN'S IS A MEMBER OF THE RUSSELL GROUP**

THE UK'S 24 LEADING RESEARCH-INTENSIVE UNIVERSITIES



**STUDENTS FROM 78 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES**

# WELCOME TO QUEEN'S SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The School is one of the largest Schools within Queen's University Belfast and our education portfolio teaches our students on some of the most fundamental global challenges facing humankind. Our School is concerned with human, animal, plant and environmental health, sustainable exploitation of living resources, food security and rural development.

Queen's University's commitment to potential in the School is underpinned by the recent development of our new £38million purpose built facility. The new building ensures we attract the best staff and students from Northern Ireland and around the world, and continue to produce graduates who are making a real and lasting impact in fields as diverse as agriculture, bio-pharmaceuticals, food science, infectious diseases, marine sustainability, animal science, ecological and environmental management.

A key part of the School, is the Institute for Global Food Security, which has a vision that it becomes recognised as a global exemplar of interlinked research delivering innovative solutions to the key challenges facing farming, food, and health practice in society. It is already ranked number one in the UK for Research Intensity (REF2014) and we hope to continue our cutting edge research across the School of Biological Sciences.

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## Meet the Team

### Mark Gallagher

Careers and Placement Adviser  
Focus on: Agri-Food, Life Sciences and Environmental Management

### Dionne Alexander

Placement Officer  
Focus on: Ecology, Sustainability and Animal related areas

### Lisa Monaghan

Placement Administrator



# WORK PLACEMENT PROGRAMMES

The School recognises the importance that gaining relevant experience has to our students to support developing skills and a bright career. All students have the option to add a placement onto their degree programme and this is viewed as being one of the most important aspects of the degree, enabling the opportunity to experience jobs in preparation for graduation.

Securing graduate employment is competitive! So gaining as much experience as possible is vital during your time at Queen's. Each year over 250 students (increasing annually) are opting to integrate a work placement into their studies.

The School operates the most diverse work experience programme in the University and when work placement is undertaken it is an assessed component of the degree course. Assessment is based on how our students develop appropriate graduate level skills, apply aspects of their academic learning, develop career and project management skills.

We have a dedicated placement team to support students and we are continually increasing our links with organisations both locally and internationally to provide high quality opportunities for our students.

# UNDERGRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMMES

Subject	Duration	When
BSc Agricultural Technology	16 weeks or year placement	16 weeks – Commences May/June to September Year Placement – At the end of second year starting from June to September  (It is an option for a student to complete the year placement shared with two different placement hosts)
BSc Biological Sciences		
BSc Biochemistry		
BSc Environmental Management		
BSc Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition		
BSc Food Science and Food Safety		
BSc Marine Biology		
BSc Microbiology		
BSc Zoology		

The above programmes are available as MSci also except Environmental Management and Agricultural Technology

# POSTGRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMMES

Subject	Duration	When
MSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare	12 weeks	April/May each year
MSc Ecological Management and Conservation Biology	12 weeks	April/May each year
MSc Leadership for Sustainable Development	6 and 8 weeks	January–March 8 weeks Non-Government Organisation April–June 8 weeks Government Organisation July –August 6 weeks Business Industry

# PLACEMENT TIMELINE

With a placement team on hand to support student and employer through all stages – the process is simple and supportive. A guide to the placement process and timeline is highlighted below although please note we are able to offer flexibility.

Timeline	What's Happening	Detail / Process
We advertise all year round with <b>October–March</b> being a key timeframe	Placement advertised	Contact the Placement Team Adviser for information and support in advertising your vacancy  Employer provides job description for the placement opportunity to be advertised for students to apply to
January	We host an environmental conservation careers fair exclusive to School of Biological Sciences students	Contact the team for details and express interest if you would like to exhibit or attend
November–March	A busy time for placement interviews	We can offer space to hold interviews on site
May–September	UG placements typically commence at this time	Placement team on hand to support with paperwork and to deal with any queries
All year round	Queen's staff visit to meet with the placement line manager and student	Depending on the placement duration, Queen's staff will visit and review placement progress at least once but are available to contact at all times

# A SUPPORTED PROGRAMME FOR EVERYONE

## Employer Support

- Dedicated adviser available at all times for all stages from advertising your opportunity, recruiting students and placement advice throughout the year
- We conduct at least one placement visit to employers and students and we are available all year round to support

## Employer Benefits

There are many benefits of hosting a placement student to your organisation:

- Cost effective extra resource with relevant knowledge and skills
- New ideas and fresh perspectives in the workplace
- A means of training and evaluating placement students for potential graduate opportunities
- Develop links with Queen's University Belfast, can lead to additional partnerships
- Students bring new skills and knowledge of modern practices and technologies
- Provide existing staff the opportunity to develop supervisory skills through mentoring a student on placement
- Opportunity to assess students for future graduate employment opportunities

## Preparing for Placement Success

Provide the student with an induction to your organisation. We recommend you include:

- An overview of the organisational structure
- Training in the use of equipment and systems which the student will use
- Relevant health and safety policies
- A set of clear aims and objectives for the student based on the agreed duties
- Meet with the student regularly to monitor their progress and discuss future development
- Meet with staff from Queen's when we visit and complete an assessment on performance

- Provide a detailed job description to promote to students. If a student is recruited – details are formally agreed in advance of placement commencing
- Ensure the work undertaken enables the student to carry out any assessments as part of the course
- Ensure that standard Insurance/ Indemnity information and Health and Safety detail is provided in advance of placement commencing
- On commencement of placement ensure that our student receives an induction and appropriate training in relation to health and safety
- Be available for the tutor visit which will be arranged by Queen's and complete a performance review
- Inform the Placement team of any concerns regarding the student whilst on placement

## Student Support

- One to one career advice – to help students make decisions about work placement and options within their degree
- Teaching on completion of application forms, CV, Cover letters as well as Interview skills training and preparation
- Students have access to a School web based placement management system which has been developed specifically for our students
- Suitable vacancies are sourced and advertised to assist with the search for placement
- For EU and international placements information on funding supports are made available and include a suite of resources, placement preparation materials and guides
- Students are issued details in advance on assessment requirements
- There is access for students to wellbeing services, disability services and international student support services before and during placement



## Maria Saddiq

O4 Clinical Research, MD



Our placement students have remarked not only on their enhanced employment prospects as result of their placement, but the extensive personal and professional development and 'real-life' skills they acquired and which they are eager to apply to their all-important final degree year and beyond.

We have had the good fortune to welcome back former placement students upon successful completion of their final year at QUB to permanent positions with O4 Research. They are currently making very strong progress and already positively impacting clinical research spanning multiple therapy areas.



## Siobhan McHaffie

Operations Manager, Cats Protection



Cats Protection NI manager Siobhan McHaffie tells how a Cat Care Assistant job opportunity attracted over 300 applications. QUB student Hannah Breen had completed a placement with Cats Protection whilst on the MSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare course and these skills and experience are what advantaged Hannah's application and interview to securing the job.





## UNDERGRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMMES

**ALEXION**

**Ryan Steele** (pictured)  
Alexion Pharmaceuticals,  
Quality Control Graduate

“

My placement at Alexion was the main reason I am where I am now and I would recommend anyone to take a placement year. Employers want experience and this is the best way to get it before graduation!

”

**RANDOX**

**Adam White**  
Randox,  
Human Resources Officer

“

Placement opportunities are not only of benefit to the student joining, but also to us as an organisation. Every year a number of Queen's Biological Science placement students make an impact within their team – that extends far beyond their time here through the introduction of new ideas, and the solving of complex issues. In addition to this, we take the placement programme as an opportunity to train and invest in these students with a hope that a number of them will return to us as experienced graduates.

”

# BSc AND MSci BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



## Timeframe

16 weeks – Commences May/June to September

Year programme – At the end of second year commencing from June to September

## Key Contact

Mark Gallagher

m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk

Biological Sciences students study many aspects of the biosciences, from molecular biology through to whole organisms and ecosystems, and includes exploration of:

- Biological diversity, systematics and conservation
- Cell and tissue structure, function and physiology
- Ecology and behaviour
- Form and function of microorganisms, protists, fungi, plants and animals
- Genetics and mechanisms and pathways of evolution

Students will gain core technical skills and subject specific practical laboratory / field-based skills to help them investigate and manipulate biological material including relevant physical, chemical and biological measurements and their application in a laboratory, field, and research project setting.

**Types of Roles** – research and development, quality control, good manufacturing practice, validation, product and process development.

**Laboratory Based** areas include – pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, environmental monitoring, animal and plant health, analytical testing laboratories, plant and crop science, healthcare

organisations such as the NHS, publicly funded research organisations and higher education institutions.

**Non-Laboratory Based** areas include – clinical trials, regulatory affairs, business development, science education and communication.

## Louise Clarke

AbbVie, Early Careers Programme Manager

“

AbbVie is delighted to partner with Queen's University on their Work Placement Programme. Our company has a strong tradition of developing the next generation of employees through our graduate programmes. AbbVie provides a dynamic and well-constructed programme which not only provides interns with challenging, assignments but also a personal and professional development curriculum. AbbVie's intern programme is more than just a learning experience for the intern—it helps us to recruit and retain the strongest talent who may become leaders for Operations in the future.

”



## Lucy Doyle (pictured)

BSc Biochemistry Student

“

In my placement I work in the Clinical Chemistry R+D lab. Each day I had the responsibility of carrying out analyser maintenance on the RX Daytona+ first thing in the morning. I have gained excellent teamwork skills from working in my department and have also learnt valuable planning skills, particularly when carrying out project type work. I would also like to return to Randox after education as I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience working with this company and was made to feel very welcome from day one of my placement.

”

# BSc AND MSci BIOCHEMISTRY



## Timeframe

16 weeks – Commences May/June to September

Year programme – At the end of second year commencing from June to September

## Key Contact

Mark Gallagher

m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk



**Dr Frances Weldon**  
STEM Outreach Manager

“

Almac Group is pleased to support students taking their first step on the career ladder through our 12 month placement programme. It is rewarding to see our placement students grow in confidence as they develop their knowledge and skills whilst also making a valuable contribution to our mission to Advance Human Health.

Students who complete an industrial placement have a competitive edge by gaining practical and professional work experience in their chosen field upon graduation. At Almac, an industrial placement gives students an opportunity to work in an innovative, dynamic environment and, with expert mentorship and training, to learn best practice in a global, world-leading pharmaceutical organisation. It's the perfect way to further develop technical skills and accelerate their career path to fulfil their potential.

”



**Marc Devlin** (pictured)  
BSc Biochemistry Student

“

My industrial placement with Almac provided me with invaluable practical experience and mentorship which expanded my understanding of the drug development lifecycle and pharma industry in general. I was afforded the opportunity to learn multiple analytical techniques for characterisation of drug substances and products in order to support testing of therapeutics from pre-clinical phase through to commercial release. I would fully recommend an industrial placement as my experience at Almac was, and continues to be, both professionally and personally, highly rewarding.

”

# BSc AND MSci MICROBIOLOGY



## Timeframe

16 weeks – Commences May/June to September

Year programme – At the end of second year commencing from June to September

## Key Contact

Mark Gallagher

m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk

Students study bacteria, fungi, algae, protozoa and viruses, and is of immense importance in relation to the environment, agriculture and food, biomedical sciences and biotechnology.

Students studying Microbiology will be skilled to work competently in a lab, complete project work both within a team and independently, analyse data and communicate effectively.

The course content is designed to equip students to study, research and develop careers in a broad range of industries, such as, healthcare, environment, agriculture, general research and business industry. Students are also equipped to undertake placements in non-science roles such as marketing, technical support, regulatory affairs, education and publishing.

**Types of Roles** – students from our Biochemistry course have skills which open them to a wide range of roles and regularly uptake placements in areas such as the biotechnology, food and pharmaceutical industries, biomedical research, health research and development. Students also work in non lab based areas including clinical trials, regulatory affairs, business development, science education and communication.



## Jennifer O'Brien

General Manager, Sci-Tech Laboratories



Students in the laboratory are fully trained in procedures which is an asset to securing future employment. We have recruited students after placement on this basis.

This benefits the laboratory by employing staff with more confidence and knowledge of a commercial working environment and less training required in laboratory techniques.

Work placement is an opportunity for students to experience the highs and lows of a full time job.

- To learn the different aspects of working in industry, both technical lab skills and assist in R&D of new test procedures
- To be acquainted with the importance of implementing Health and Safety in all aspects of laboratory testing and general staff safety
- To increase their confidence when they undertake full time employment
- Exposure to strict quality management in a commercial laboratory



**Sam Nolan** (pictured)  
MSci Microbiology Student



I would really advise anyone in university to undertake a placement. Not only does a placement help with future career prospects and stands out on a CV, it helps to build an understanding of what future career paths may or may not be for you. Personally, I think it was invaluable for me to improve on many soft skills such as presentation skills, confidence in and out of the workplace, and networking skills.

One of my major highlights from the placement was being able to manage various projects; I had the opportunity to develop an app which showed all the hospitals used by MSD in the UK and Ireland and various information about the sites.





# BSc AND MSci MARINE BIOLOGY



## Timeframe

16 weeks – Commences May/June to September

Year programme – At the end of second year commencing from June to September

## Key Contact

Dionne Alexander  
d.alexander@qub.ac.uk

Mark Gallagher  
m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk



**Gale Loescher**  
Intern Coordinator

Marine Biology is designed to blend strong training in marine biology with core skills in the biosciences ranging from physiology and genetics through to conservation biology and global climate change. This broad-based approach allows students to explore a range of career opportunities within the biological sciences, as well as within the field of marine biology. This taught content is complemented by an exceptional array of extra-curricular activities aimed at building employability; from work-shadowing marine PhD students from stage 1 of your degree through to dedicated skills-development workshops at our marine laboratory including boat-handling, satellite tracking and underwater video technology.

**Types of Roles** – students seek a wide range of placement opportunities to include roles such as marine area protection and conservation, survey and sampling work, water quality monitoring, population studies, field and desk based research, marine consultancies, coastal management, aquaculture and fisheries management, lab based marine related research.

“

Seal Rescue Ireland has received quality interns from QUB's work placement programme. We are happy to continue working with QUB and accepting applications from their students. Work experience is essential. Employers want to see applicants with real world, hands on experience working as part of a team, alongside a relevant degree. It is also beneficial to learn and improve upon a variety of different skills. Interns at Seal Rescue Ireland don't only learn the technical skills of marine mammal care; they also become a dynamic member of the team by practicing skills in leadership, organisation, customer service, public speaking, administrative, and fundraising, all of which can be applied to a wide variety of different workplaces.

”



**Department of Conservation**  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**Chris Deery** (pictured)  
Marine Biology Student

“

My placement highlights at New Zealand Department of Conservation are the amazing people I have met and worked with, and getting the opportunity to work with and handle wild animals safely and for their benefit. Getting to see the seals released back into the wild after I've helped to rehabilitate them is really rewarding. Also getting to be involved with a population estimate study for the Hutton's Shearwater – a critically endangered seabird which only nests in a specific mountain range on New Zealand's South Island. I spent 2 nights catching and marking birds on the side of a snowy mountain, then 3 days out on boats counting the number of marked vs unmarked birds for a population estimate following the destruction of nesting areas during the Kaikoura earthquake in 2016. I fell in love with New Zealand, so I won't be surprised if I find myself back there permanently.

”

# BSc AND MSci ZOOLOGY



## Timeframe

16 weeks – Commences May/June to September

Year programme – At the end of second year commencing from June to September

## Key Contact

Dionne Alexander  
d.alexander@qub.ac.uk

Mark Gallagher  
m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk

Zoology at Queen's aims to provide students with a broad coverage of the biology of animals and how they interact with other living organisms. Zoology students study physiology, genetics, biology, ecological and conservation.

Students develop key skills through zoology studies to include; laboratory skills, communication, problem solving, data analysis, social and project management skills, laboratory skills, communication skills, analytical skills, problem solving and project management skills.

**Types of Roles** – students are qualified and keen to take up both scientific and non-scientific careers. Students seek roles in areas such as nature and animal conservation, innovative research and development of new products, advisory and consultancy work, particularly in companies or organisations concerned with animal and plant health, environmental management, pharmaceutical products and biotechnology.



## Heidi McIlvenny

Sea Deep Coordinator



It has been such a pleasure to welcome students into the Living Seas Team and see them settle in with our staff and volunteers so quickly. By the end of the placement they are confident and experienced at running events, public speaking and producing communication resources. The placement also gives them the chance to put their course knowledge into practice, recording species data and running ID workshops around our coast.



**Mark McBride** (working with leopards pictured above)  
Placement with Harnas, Africa  
Zoology Student



I religiously watched wildlife documentaries by Sir David Attenborough and Jonathan Scott (QUB graduate) to name a few and ever since, I have always wanted to experience the environments that both these men and many others have experienced.

The best part of my placement at Harnas was working hands on with large carnivores such as lions, leopards and cheetahs. This line of work is only really seen on television by people from Northern Ireland, so to be actually there carrying out the work was truly special. To be able to experience what life might be like for you at an early stage like this is something you cannot pass up.



# BSc AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

## Timeframe

16 weeks – Commences May/June to September

Year programme – At the end of second year commencing from June to September

## Key Contact

Mark Gallagher  
m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk



**John Harrison**  
Agriculture Manager Moy Park



The year-long placements we have taken on over the last 10 years have been really positive overall with a high proportion taking up positions within the business on completion of their studies. Reasons why students should undertake work experience is to gain invaluable experience in a commercial environment, even if the student does not end up working for the company where the placement took place the experience can be conveyed in an job interview to give depth to the candidates experiences and demonstrate an understanding of working in a fast paced commercial environment.



This course has been carefully developed with both academic and industry involvement in conjunction with CAFRE to ensure students have the skills, knowledge and experience to progress prosperous careers. Learning includes animal and crop science, technology and entrepreneurial studies, crop and livestock production, sustainable agriculture etc.

**Types of Roles** – Industry based roles including Meat, Dairy and Poultry industries (farm quality assurance, primary production, traceability), trainee farm management, farm liaison and support, industry related farm trials, sales and business development activities, harvesting, agronomy, plant breeding and crop related roles, horticulture, animal feeds companies and nutrition, agricultural stakeholder organisations, agricultural research institutes working on a broad range of agri-research projects.

Many students have gained experience internationally and links are currently established with employers in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US.



## CHESTNUTT ANIMAL FEEDS

**Aaron Jones** (pictured)  
BSc Agricultural Technology Student



My 46 week placement with Chestnutt Animal Feeds has allowed me to gain invaluable industry experience, contacts and knowledge of ruminant nutrition. Having a research project published by a recognised firm, organising a successful customer workshop and attending the prestigious NI Grain Trade black tie dinner at the Culloden Estate are just a few of the many highlights experienced.



# BSc ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



## Timeframe

16 weeks – Commences May/June to September

Year programme – At the end of second year starting commencing June to September

## Key Contact

Mark Gallagher

m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk

Students studying Environmental Management have diverse careers, not only in the rural and land use industries and government services, but also in private sector industries, financial institutions and agribusiness concerns of various kinds. Students will have knowledge of the natural environment, be able to demonstrate familiarity with sustainable development, conservation and environmental protection issues, as well as an understanding of the integrated and holistic nature of land use and environmental management.

**Types of Roles** – possible placement roles include environmental management (private and public sectors) including consultancy, environmental impact assessment, surveying, conservation, waste management, ecological impact assessment, policy and legislation and many more.



**Raymond Holbeach**  
Regional Director



RPS involvement in work placements has always been a positive one and we continue to be enlightened by the up to date educational knowledge of the students and their willingness to learn new practical skills in a busy workplace. For RPS the benefits are two fold in that we not only gain additional resources for the programme period to help deliver our busy workload but also graduating students are more workplace ready to fill any future vacancies we may have. In fact, over the years RPS have employed a number of graduates who benefitted from the placement programme and were able to fit in quickly to our consultancy working environment. Nothing beats practical work experience. Students gain a comprehensive experience of what it takes to be an environmental consultant and if it is the career for them. Students working at RPS have an opportunity to gain experience in a broad range of environmental fields such as noise, air quality & climate and ecology and therefore can identify if there is a particular career path they would like to follow.



**Belfast City Council**

**Ryan Hilley** (pictured)

Placement with Belfast City Council  
Environmental Management Student



My placement year was within the Waste Management Section of Belfast City Council. Throughout the year I found myself acting as an asset for the entire service and carrying out tasks for a wide range of different people. This was extremely beneficial as it expanded my knowledge of the sector and allowed me to gain experience working in unique environments. I was involved in the organisation of the internal audit programme for the waste management sites. I received internal auditor training for ISO 45001, 14001 and 9001 which has further developed my ability to think critically. The placement year has given me a sample of the working environment and it has provided me with a great sense of direction in terms of the career path which I would like to pursue in the future. The placement has instilled me with a sense of confidence which I will carry forward into future jobs.



# FOOD QUALITY, SAFETY AND NUTRITION



## FOOD SCIENCE AND FOOD SAFETY BSc AND MSci

### Timeframe

16 weeks – Commences May/June to September

Year programme – At the end of second year commencing from June to September

### Key Contact

Mark Gallagher

m.gallagher@qub.ac.uk

Food Science and Safety students develop and experience cutting-edge technologies involved in food research.

Our Food programmes are underpinned by a scientific understanding of food, such as its properties and composition, production and manufacture, testing and regulation, interaction with the human body, and the current and future challenges for its safety and supply.

- Food Quality concerns the 'fitness for purpose' of our food in terms of appearance (e.g. colour and surface qualities, texture, flavour and odour) and how these can be improved.
- Food Safety considers the physical, microbiological and chemical aspects of our food, which may be harmful to human health and how these can be minimised.
- Nutrition concerns the nutrient supply from foods necessary to support the human body in health and during ill health throughout all life stages.

Our food science degrees are specifically designed to focus on areas of particular relevance to the future of the global food supply chain ensuring adequate food safety and nutritious food.

**Types of Roles** – product development, technical and quality (quality assurance technician, food technology) HACCP and food safety, audit preparation (BRC and SALSA) and additional regulatory related roles, supplier liaison and buying, marketing and business development, waste minimisation and environmental management projects, food research within industry and research institutes working on a broad range of food science laboratory based projects.

## M&S — FOOD —

### Dominic Darby

Marks and Spencer, Head of Food Technology



Whether it is interns, placement students or graduates, we have been impressed by both the QUB students strong knowledge of the food industry issues but also by their workplace readiness skills. Our strong partnership and alignment will mean QUB students will continue to be a strong part of M&S Food Technology recruitment for many years to come.



### Callum O'Neill (pictured)

BSc Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition Student



It was a great experience to work in such an innovative and forward thinking company, who are continuously looking for new opportunities to expand or develop. This was very interesting for me in my role as an NPD technologist as I was regularly involved in developing new products, conducting benchtop and factory trials, as well as taste tests and research. The variety of tasks I was exposed to were very useful in developing a wide range of skills and qualities employers look for such as time management and communication skills.





**Darcy Power**  
Hearing Dogs, Dog Training Instructor

“

I was offered a job at Hearing Dogs simultaneously to conducting my work placement at Queen's. My piece of advice to others: You never know which way your future career will go, so opening yourself up to every experience will only widen your prospects!

”



**Mark Little**  
Trouw Nutrition

“

Student's background knowledge was strong but what really struck us was the hard working attitude and want to develop and apply knowledge to the project. The student researched the topic, carried out a thorough literature review, spoke to some of the eminent researchers in the area and came up with a project design. Carried out the project, needing minimal supervision, but was not afraid to ask for help when needed. Produced a comprehensive summary of their findings which will be used within the company, not only in Ireland, but worldwide. One of the benefits to Trouw is that we have an opportunity to build a relationship with Queens University, which will be extremely useful when it comes to looking for quality people to employ. We have no hesitation in recommending a Masters in Welfare placement student.

”

## POSTGRADUATE PLACEMENT PROGRAMMES

# MSc LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Timeframe

Jan – March 8 weeks placement within a Non-Government Organisation

Apr – June 8 weeks placement within a Government Organisation

July – August 6 weeks placement within a Business Organisation

Whilst on placement students will undertake a research project which is agreed by student and placement host.

## Key Contact

Dionne Alexander

d.alexander@qub.ac.uk

Our Leadership for Sustainable Development is a masters for those who want to help turn the vision of a just and ecologically sustainable society into a practical reality. Students study theories and practices of leadership and project management in the context of sustainable development, policies and strategies being able to identify best practice and understanding changes, opportunities and challenges for sustainable development.

**Types of Roles** – The course focuses on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals developing knowledge on sustainable goals across a wide range of industries, sectors and practices. Environmental Management (across a range of sectors) – Waste and resource management, industry maintenance and monitoring of environmental regulations, environmental managements systems include ISO14001, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Humanitarian – Improving equality, opportunities, quality of life, peace, justice and strong institutions. Economy and Industry – Decent work and Economic growth, green and conservational innovation. Education and Health – Promoting sustainability communications and education to groups on practices, sustainable health practices.

## International Synergies

NORTHERN IRELAND  
industrial ecology solutions

### Elaine Kerr

Director of International Synergies NI Ltd

“

The quiet enthusiasm and dedication that the Sustainability Student displayed during placement helped us to complete vital tasks. We were so impressed that we have kept the student on as Assistant Practitioner providing a key role in supporting the whole team and our objectives.

”



## HENRY BROTHERS

### Deborah Madden (pictured)

Quality and Environmental Advisor, Henry Brothers Ltd  
Alumni of Leadership for Sustainable Development Course

“

My job role within Henry Brothers is quite diverse, primarily leading and implementing our Quality and Environmental Management Systems across a range of our construction projects throughout NI, Scotland and England. Secondary to this is auditing the Quality and Environmental Compliance of our sites and subsidiary companies, to the ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 standards respectively. This has provided me with a wide range of knowledge, particularly when it comes to auditing our bespoke factory systems. My advice to students is on the importance of volunteering and work experience especially in the sector you feel you most want to work in, to ensure that's where you want to take your career. Gaining the right workplace skills and knowledge from early on is beneficial.

”

# MSc ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

## Timeframe

12 week placement commencing April / May each year  
Placement project required for student to undertake such as research, literature review.

## Key Contact

Dionne Alexander  
d.alexander@qub.ac.uk



**Pauline Campbell**  
CEDaR  
(Centre for Environmental Data and Recording)



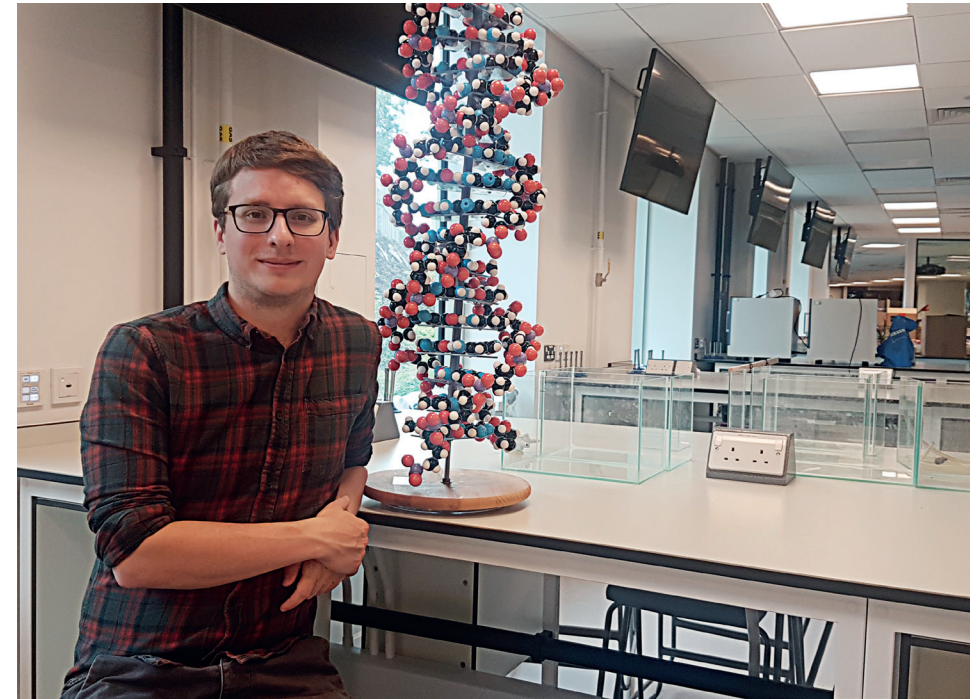
We are particularly proud to work with Queen's University. We have found the students coming to us through this programme to be enthusiastic, motivated and work to a high standard. Through the help of placement students, we have been able to tackle projects and develop initiatives that we would not have ordinarily had the resources to do. Work experience gives employers confidence that a student can cope with the wide range of workplace activities. The experience is also vital for students to gain hands-on working knowledge of workplace environments, making contacts and developing learnt skills and knowledge.



Our MSc Ecological Management and Conservation Biology course is designed for those with a science background who are studying topics including biodiversity loss, environmental pressures, habitat degradation, climate change, invasive species and emerging diseases. This course aims to equip students to be part of the solution to address these issues.

## Project / Research Work

As part of their placement, students can support existing projects or assist staff in the completion of projects. These can be in areas including: environmental monitoring and protection, habitat management, field survey work and data collection, site management, species protection, invasive species identification and management, creation of biodiversity action plans and input into environmental impact assessments, environmental education and outreach, application of policies and legislation.



**James Alego-Orr** (pictured)  
Placement with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council  
Ecological and Conservation Biology Student



I was involved in a project looking at public perception of predators in Ireland, which involved interviewing members of the public in forest parks and events. I also assisted the office with surveys and helped with their Youth Ranger Programme. With this experience I have secured employment as a ranger with the National Trust.





# MSc ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE

## Timeframe

12 week placement commencing April / May each year  
Placement project required for student to undertake such as research, literature review.  
Projects are agreed between student and placement host.

## Key Contact

Dionne Alexander  
d.alexander@qub.ac.uk



Dr Andrew Kelly  
ISPCO, CEO



The ISPCA was delighted to host a student from QUB MSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare course for 16 weeks work placement [in 2017]. The placement allowed the ISPCA to carry out work which otherwise would not have been achievable due to limited resources. The student gathered data on two projects, providing much need information for the ISPCA which has since been used in policy development and lobbying for better protection for animals. The placement was a great benefit to the ISPCA and to the student. In a very competitive job market, students need more than just letters after their name and this programme gives them the opportunity to gain vital workplace experience as part of a team and on a worthwhile project.

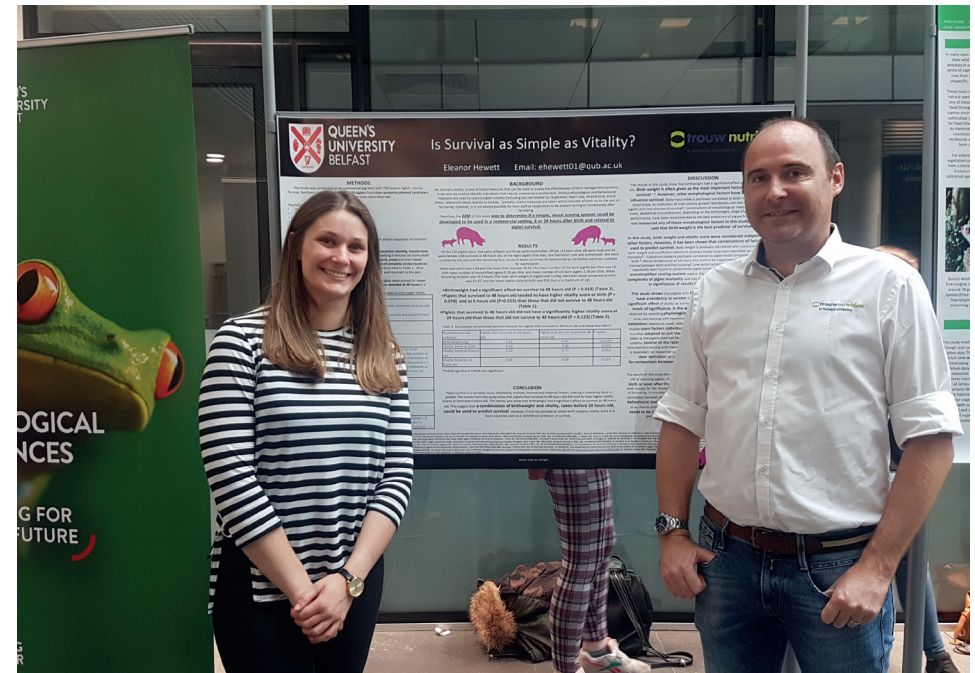


Our MSc Animal Behaviour and Welfare course aims to advance understanding of current and emerging issues in both Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare. Students are from a science background and will study a range of topics to include animal behaviour from single-celled organisms, invertebrates to vertebrates. An understanding of animal behaviour is of fundamental importance to safeguard animal welfare. This course covers a wide range of animals from insects to primates and learning of communication, ethics, conservation sensory systems and animal personality.

## Examples of Previous Project Areas

A placement allows students to develop knowledge and skills in a wide range of roles in animal behaviour and welfare. Students can support existing staff in the completion of projects. These can be potentially in areas including:

- Animal charities, zoos, wildlife parks, aquaculture, animal nutrition companies, health and nutrition product development
- Environmental protection agencies, environmental consultancies, government agencies and research institutions.
- Medical and veterinary research, conservation, education, communication, policy and legislation



Eleanor Hewett (pictured)  
Placement with Trouw Nutrition  
Animal Behaviour and Welfare Student



I had a fantastic time on my work placement. I worked with passionate and interesting people, put theory into practice and learnt things I would never have learnt in a lecture theatre. My placement was at Trouw Nutrition Ireland, a combination of office work and on-farm research. Being given the autonomy to plan and carry out my own research, knowing I was making a valuable contribution to the business, was a huge confidence boost.



# EMPLOYABILITY ENGAGEMENT: GET INVOLVED

The School of Biological Sciences Careers and Placement Team work with all undergraduate and postgraduate taught students within the School, and in particular with students on the Work Placement and Professional Studies modules.

An extensive range of services are offered to students including:

- Preparing for a transition to year-out placements, graduate employment or postgraduate study
- Decisions about life after graduation and options with your Biological Science degree
- Tailored information on vacancy sources within your area of interest
- Assistance in preparing a CV, applying for jobs and interview skills
- Helping you to develop your employability and skills through tailored workshops and programmes
- A range of accredited programmes are available through the University Careers and Employability and Skills service. Many of these lead to the Degree Plus Employability award.



We host an annual careers fair with prominent organisations in the industry attending to engage with students on careers, volunteering and placements.



A tailored and personalised portal for students and employers. Promoting events, jobs, volunteering, placement opportunities and career information.



Degree Plus is an opportunity for any current Queen's student to get involved and gain accreditation from Queen's for completing extra-curricular work related learning alongside their degree.



This tour aims to provide students with an opportunity to find out more about career areas and opportunities in the biopharmaceuticals and life sciences sector. The tour takes place in either ROI or GB with visits on employer sites providing insights into science company workplaces and to develop an understanding of the skills and knowledge required to develop a career in this area, as well as encouraging students to consider opportunities outside Northern Ireland.


## CONTACT US


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