Faculty of Science
Year in Industry
Undergraduate Courses
Why Study a Year in Industry?

There is no greater asset in today’s competitive job market than relevant work experience. Completion of a year in industry programme will ensure you graduate with relevant work experience, putting you one step ahead of other students.

Our year in industry programmes offer you first-hand knowledge of the mechanics of how your chosen field operates, alongside greatly improving your chances of progressing within that sector. These courses also allow you to apply the theoretical knowledge that you have developed in your first two years of study in a practical setting. We currently offer a year in industry option in:

- Actuarial Sciences
- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Computing Sciences
- Engineering
- Environmental Sciences
- Natural Sciences.

Our Industrial Links

All of the Schools in the Faculty of Science boast well-established commercial connections throughout the UK and beyond, and can help you to identify and compete for appropriate industrial opportunities. These vary between year in industry programmes, of course, but previous placements have included GlaxoSmithKline, Aviva, Barclays Bank, Environmental Agencies and Local and National Government organisations.

Financial Benefits

A big attraction to this type of course, apart from the enhanced career prospects, is that Home/EU students spending a year in industry will only pay 15 per cent and international students only 25 per cent of the standard tuition fees for that year (2013 figure). However, fees will be subject to an annual review. And, of course, you are typically paid by the placement provider during the year, a great way to help fund your continued studies. Typical salaries are in the range of £13,000 - £18,000 per year.

For the latest on financial arrangements for our year in industry students please visit www.uea.ac.uk/finance

Employability

A year in industry is an excellent choice for those students who wish to maximise their employability. This process enables you to take full advantage of working in a commercial environment whilst earning a salary and gaining invaluable experience. We expect students to seek their own work placements. Not only will this ensure that you work within your preferred field, it will also provide you with the essential job-hunting skills you will require after graduation. Support is available from School staff whilst students are identifying and negotiating placement opportunities.

In addition to this, our Careers and Employability service is available for all of our students, and offers careers fairs, alumni events and employer presentations; as well as skills workshops and training, enterprise support and career management sessions on topics such as CVs, work experience, networking and coaching.

About the Faculty

The Faculty of Science comprises six Schools of Study and two affiliated Research Institutes. All are located within the campus and the adjoining Norwich Research Park. As an institution, we have a powerful reputation for innovation, excellence and working across the boundaries of different academic disciplines.

A number of our Schools frequently top the National Student Survey, and in the latest Research Assessment Exercise, all of the research units within the Faculty of Science were rated as having world-leading research and over 93 per cent of the research outputs were assessed as being of international quality.
Actuarial Sciences

With starting salaries averaging over £30,000 per year the actuarial profession is one of the highest paid in the country, with actuaries working in commercial business, government, industry, finance and research.

Completing your degree is just one of the steps to becoming an actuary. After leaving university you will usually join an actuarial firm to develop your skills while you qualify, passing the UK Actuarial Profession examinations to qualify as an Associate or Fellow of the Profession.

How It Works
The third year of the course is spent in a business placement, working alongside practicing actuaries. The focus of the year will be a project that is agreed beforehand between the School of Computing Sciences and the company. The project will be designed to develop and expand your skills, and throughout it, you will work with and be guided by experienced professionals at the company.

In addition, you will learn new skills (professional practices, teamwork and time-management, for example) and these will stand you in good stead once you have completed your degree and are looking for a job.

Our Industrial Links
We have well-established commercial connections throughout the UK and beyond and can help you to identify and compete for appropriate industrial opportunities. Recent placement partners of the School have included: Aviva, AXA, MattLd., Friends Provident, Prudential and Royal London. Other suitable placements may be found at: Bloomberg, British Telecom, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Intel, Logica or Microsoft.

Why did you choose to study at UEA?
UEA was my first choice to study Actuarial Sciences as it is one of the few universities that gives you the option to take a year in industry as part of your course. I was also impressed by the diverse range of courses and modules.

Did you make use of the Careers Centre during your studies?
Yes, and I strongly encourage anyone to visit the Careers Centre for advice on applications or interviews. They are very professional, providing valuable advice on how to improve the quality of applications and setting up practice interviews for students.

How did you secure your placement?
After submitting many applications, I was accepted for three interviews. I didn’t get the first job I want for, which motivated me to succeed in the next, and thanks to some last minute tips from the Careers Centre I felt more confident and prepared. I was successful, and received an offer for a one year actuarial placement with AXA.

Did you use the Year in Industry?
No, but I strongly recommend students to take the opportunity to do so.

For more information please visit www.uea.ac.uk/act/courses

Actuarial Sciences student Sailajah secured a placement with AXA, and intends to pursue a career as a professional actuary once she graduates.
Our degrees cover the full spectrum of contemporary biology and its application to health, the environment, agriculture, industry and biotechnology.

One of the distinguishing features of the courses we offer is choice. They are designed to offer flexibility, so you can design a programme of study that best suits your interests and aspirations, while ensuring you receive a comprehensive education in your chosen specialism.

Biological Sciences with a Year in Industry
UCAS code: C104

A level (typical offer): AAB
International baccalaureate: 33 (incl HL Biology at 6 and one other HL subject at B)
Special entry requirements: A level Biology or equivalent, GCSE Maths grade B

BSc Biochemistry with a Year in Industry
UCAS code: C752

A level (typical offer): AAB
International baccalaureate: 33 (incl HL Chemistry at 6 and one other HL in Science or Maths at 6, SL Maths at 4 if not taken at HL)
Special entry requirements: A level Chemistry and an A level in one other Science or Maths, AS level Maths at Grade C

Typical offer grades are for guidance only – please refer to www.uea.ac.uk/bsc for more detailed and up-to-date course information.

How It Works
The year in industry programme offers students the chance to build on the excellent academic grounding they develop in the first two years of study.

Our Industry Links
We have well-established commercial connections throughout the UK and beyond and can help you to identify and compete for appropriate industrial opportunities. These might be in large pharmaceutical companies; or small biotechnology, hospital or research institute laboratories. Previous placement hosts have included GlaxoSmithKline, Cellzome and the John Innes Centre.

Biochemistry with a Year in Industry

Drawing on the Faculty of Science’s expertise in biology and chemistry, this course looks at the study of chemical processes in living organisms, and how the enormous complexity of life is driven through protein production, biochemical signalling and metabolism.

How to Remember It Later
If you want to remember it later, you keep a notebook or diary, as you will imagine whilst on placement, so make sure to attend as many of the additional lectures that you can. You will learn more than you ever imagined whilst on placement, so make sure you keep a notebook or diary, as you will want to remember it later.

Kirstie Hetherington
BSc Biological Sciences with a Year in Industry

A levels
Biology
Chemistry
Mathematics

Why did you choose to study at UEA?
I chose UEA because I wanted to study at an internationally renowned university. I was also particularly drawn to UEA’s links with the Norwich Research Park and other outstanding institutions. The University’s friendly campus, its state-of-the-art facilities combined with its world class research status convinced me to make UEA my first choice.

How has your year in industry placement benefited you?
My year in industry placement at The Genome Analysis Centre on the Norwich Research Park has given me invaluable insight into the world of Bioinformatics. I feel I have really grown in confidence as a scientist, and the knowledge I have learnt can be directly applied to my academic studies. Being given the opportunity to work with real scientists on real projects is hugely inspiring and has made me more determined to pursue my dream of becoming a Bioinformatician.

What advice would you give to students about to embark on their placement?
Your placement only lasts for a year – so enjoy it! Don’t be afraid to ask questions, as the people you will be working with have great working knowledge of the subject, and attend as many of the additional lectures that you can. You will learn more than you ever imagined whilst on placement, so make sure you keep a notebook or diary, as you will want to remember it later.

What are the key skills you learnt at UEA?
The lab work and seminars provide an opportunity to develop both independent study and teamwork ability. I’ve learnt many skills which employers value highly, including expertise in a wet-lab environment and strong data analysis and communication skills. The coursework components provide great project management experiences and really developed my time management capabilities. UEA also helped to further enhance my laboratory skills by hosting a two week summer school for the year in industry students.

Did you make use of the Careers Centre during your studies?
The Careers Centre provides an excellent opportunity to receive guidance on CVs and interview techniques. The Careers Centre also provides year in industry students with plenty of advice for applying for placements.

How has your course helped you in your career so far?
I feel my course has been definitive in shaping my wish to pursue a career in Bioinformatics. The year in industry course has been a huge boost to my career aspirations — teaching me how to apply for jobs, giving me the confidence to pass interviews successfully and providing me with invaluable working experience. I also obtained another internship placement thanks to help from the department’s outstanding academics and hardworking staff, working over the summer in the Bioinformatics department of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.

What are your plans for the future?
I have enjoyed my Bioinformatics year in industry placement so much that I am to pursue further study in this area. UEA has supported me every step of the way, and I know they will continue to do so.
The School of Chemistry is one of the leading chemistry research centres in the UK, and a degree in chemistry from UEA gives you an excellent footing in the employment market.

The chemical and pharmaceutical industries are a major part of the UK and world economies, and those who acquire relevant chemistry expertise have a significant asset when it comes to pursuing a career in industry. In every respect, the career prospects are excellent.

Chemistry
This is a popular degree programme and is our most flexible option for those students wishing to choose from the vast array of modules available at UEA. It is ideally suited to students wishing to study a more broadly-based chemistry degree.

Biological and Medicinal Chemistry
Biological chemistry can be defined as the investigation of the physico-chemical properties of biological molecules and how they interact with other biological/ biochemical molecules, and routes towards their chemical (biosynthesis). These subjects are closely related to the multidisciplinary science of chemical biology, which draws from both chemistry and multidisciplinary science of chemical biology, which draws from both chemistry and pharmacology. Biological chemistry is a closely related subject in which molecules are designed to interact with and perturb biological processes in order to alleviate particular conditions and diseases.

Chemical Physics
A key feature of this course is its interdisciplinary and coherent approach, which brings together chemistry, physics and mathematics. Chemical physics is an exciting and intellectually challenging area and you will be introduced to topics that reflect its full scope. You will have the chance to examine and engage with the fabrication and properties of nanoparticles, laser systems and their applications, microscopes, computational modelling and photonics.

Our Industry Links
A wide range of companies participates in this scheme, including GlaxoSmithKline, AstraZeneca, Novartis, Infinium, Xenlux, Napp and British Sugar to name but a few. Students are engaged in a large range of projects in: organic synthesis and pharmaceuticals analysis, physical chemistry; materials chemistry; environmental and forensic chemistry.

Helen Newson
MChem Biological and Medicinal Chemistry with a Year in Industry

A level (typical offer): AAB
Chemistry
Biology
Mathematics

Why did you choose to study at UEA?
I chose to study at UEA after attending an open day in order to get a feel for the University. When I visited, I found that there was a very friendly and positive atmosphere around the campus and with the people I met, which convinced me to study here. Norwich is lively and exciting, and there’s a lot to do in the daytime and the city centre also offers great nightlife.

How has your year in industry placement benefited you?
The year in industry placement has given me a great insight into what I want to do after university. After graduating, I plan to pursue a career as a synthetic chemist in the pharmaceutical industry, either in the UK or abroad. The placement really helped me to decide this, and I want to pursue a career in this sector because of my current experience of working within it as part of my placement. The placement has also helped me develop a range of important expertise, particularly my laboratory and presentation skills. I have also enjoyed the work and had the opportunity to meet lots of people with similar interests to me.

What advice would you give to students about to embark on their placement?
I would definitely recommend a placement year to everyone. I would advise students to choose a placement which corresponds to your career aspirations, and also a role that you think you will enjoy. I would say it is very important to work hard once you’ve started the placement, but also to enjoy it.

Helen has just completed her placement at the multinational pharmaceutical company Novartis. From her experience, she hopes to pursue a career as a synthetic chemist.

How has your course helped you in your personal development so far?
The course has really helped me to develop during my first two years of study at UEA, particularly in terms of my laboratory skills. My academic knowledge has been required more than I had imagined it would during my industrial placement, which has challenged me to improve myself and enhance my study skills. Apart from the practical scientific skills and expertise, during my time at UEA I have also learnt to be confident when speaking in front of others, and also how to organise my time to meet strict deadlines.

Did you make use of the Careers Centre during your studies?
I did make use of the Careers Centre, and they were a great help when it came to creating an effective CV and covering letter during the placement application process.
Computing Sciences

BSc Computing Science with a Year in Industry
UCAS code: G401

A level (typical offer): ABB
International baccalaureate: 32 (incl one HL subject from the preferred list at 5 and one other HL subject at 5)
Special entry requirements: At least one A level (or equivalent) in Mathematics (preferred), Computing, Physics, Electronics, Economics, Biology or Chemistry. GCSE Mathematics grade B

BEng Computer Systems Engineering with a Year in Industry
UCAS code: G311

A level (typical offer): ABB
International baccalaureate: 32 (incl one HL subject from the preferred list at 5 and one other HL subject at 5)
Special entry requirements: At least one A level (or equivalent) in Mathematics, Computing, Physics, Electronics, Economics, Biology or Chemistry. GCSE Mathematics grade B

BSc Computing for Business with a year in Industry
UCAS code: G901

A level (typical offer): ABB
International baccalaureate: 32 (incl one HL subject from the preferred list at 5 and one other HL subject at 5)
Special entry requirements: At least one A level (or equivalent) in Mathematics, Computing, Physics, Electronics, Economics, Biology, Chemistry or a business related subject, GCSE Mathematics grade C

Typical offer grades are for guidance only – please refer to www.uea.ac.uk/comp/courses for more detailed and up-to-date course information.

Graduates from the School of Computing Sciences enjoy the most favourable prospects of any graduates. Over 90 per cent of our graduates secure computer-relevant positions with companies or continue their studies at postgraduate level in academia.

Our year in industry degree aim to prepare students to engage with fast changing computer technology and to master the fundamentals of computing science, while gaining practical work experience. As a result, our graduates leave with an in-depth knowledge of the subject area and excellent job prospects.

**Computer Systems Engineering**

The BEng in Computer Systems Engineering is designed for students who have an interest in computing systems from both software and hardware perspectives. In this degree you will be taught computer programming alongside low-level design right down to the electronic component level. You are also given some flexibility to either focus on developing your knowledge of computing systems or to study some of the wider aspects of computing science.

**Computing for Business**

The Computing for Business degree is aimed at students who want to develop a career in a commercial computing environment. Students will acquire a wide range of techniques and tools for use in the construction of sophisticated information systems with particular emphasis on software for business. The majority of the modules are taught in the School of Computing Sciences, but some of the more specialist business modules are taught by the Norwich Business School.

**Our Industry Links**

Our academic faculty has considerable experience of working in collaboration with external companies, specialising in the areas of web design, usability testing, databases, computer networks and information retrieval. These links with business and industry are also exploited in the degree by setting real world problems and using real data in practical projects and coursework. Recent placement partners of the School have included: Proteo, IBM, Blackberry, Tribal and Varox.

**Francesca Egan**

BEng Computer Systems Engineering with a Year in Industry

**A levels**

Computing, English Language and Literature, Psychology

**Original from**

Bridgnorth, Shropshire

**Why did you choose to study at UEA?**

My main reason for choosing to study at UEA was the location — the campus provides a great atmosphere for both study and leisure. When I visited the UEA, everybody I met was friendly and approachable. The academic staff at the School of Computing Science were very knowledgeable, and presented their course content with enthusiasm.

**How has your year in industry placement benefited you?**

For my year in industry placement I worked in the software development cycle. Working on a big, long-term project has given me the chance to step out of my comfort zone and start to demonstrate software to potential clients. The placement has taught me the importance of determining new features based on the needs of the customers — I gained a real insight into elements of the industry that I would never had learnt in a text book.

The placement has given me a good idea of what I want to do after graduation regarding my future career choices. I have gained a real variety of skills which will be beneficial for job hunting and future employment.

**What advice would you give to students about to embark on their placement?**

Choose a placement which matches your area of interest, and make it clear to the company that you are willing to work in a variety of roles to increase your experience as much as possible. Be sure to have regular review meetings so you can make the best of your placement, take onboard any points raised and work to improve yourself.

Don’t be afraid to ask questions and pursue new challenges — your employer knows that you’re there to learn as well as work.

**For her year in Industry, Francesca worked at business solutions company Proteo in Norwich. She hopes to continue working for them after her degree.**

**How has your course helped you in your career so far?**

My placement has given me a better idea of what sort of career I want to pursue once I graduate. It has allowed me to work in a variety of roles, and really boosted my confidence when it comes to talking to customers and presenting myself as a representative of a company.

**What are the key skills you learnt at UEA?**

I gained essential academic skills during my time at UEA, including learning how to write professional reports. I also developed technical expertise in programming and designing software, alongside personal proficiency in sticking to deadlines and planning ahead.

**Did you make use of the Careers Centre during your studies?**

The Careers Centre is an invaluable resource. The staff were very knowledgeable, helping me to construct my application for the year in industry placement. They gave me excellent advice on how to improve my CV, and I would recommend contacting them for help in pursuing your career.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I plan to work with my placement provider on my third year project, and hope to continue working for my placement employer after I graduate.

In the longer term I plan to continue to develop my skills in computer science in order to work to bridge the gap between new technology and the current working methods of business.
Engineering

Engineering is a professional vocation that requires academic and practical training, and employers require students to graduate with a breadth of experience in addition to their studies. One valuable way of obtaining this is by following a structured programme of work experience, and at UEA we provide a number of ways of obtaining this.

Students on this degree complete their third year in industry. The aim is on each student to find a placement, so to assist, the University introduces the requirements during your first year. By the beginning of the second year you will have a well-prepared CV and confidence when articulating how your degree has prepared you for your placement.

Our Industrial Links
A number of the companies from the East of England Energy Group work closely with us and support our industrial placements, including: SUn, Siaajekis, Perenco, Aquaterra Energy, Windcrop and many others.

A number of visiting industrialists mean that even if you do not secure industrial experience formally, you will still have access to speakers who are experts in risk, wind farm maintenance, energy efficiency, computational tools, and a whole range of practical issues.

SELECT Sponsorship
All students are given the opportunity during their first semester to discuss sponsorship with companies who have joined the UEA SELECT scheme. After a successful industry placement, the company may sponsor the student for the remainder of their degree.

Your Time in Industry
The Engineering Council has recognised that learning from industrial placements requires a well-structured programme that begins with an agreed learning plan. You will prepare a plan at the beginning of the year in industry and maintain a logbook. You will also complete the industry-standard quarterly reports during your time with the company. The year culminates in submission of a report and an oral presentation.

A few years after graduation, when you collect together your academic and practical evidence for scrutiny by peers at the chartered professional review, the quarterly reports will provide evidence of a breadth of practical study.

Why do you offer placements for a year, rather than a few months?
Some energy and construction-related jobs are constrained by the weather. If you only work on placements in the summer, valuable though they are, this means you miss out on the challenges of winter working. For example, offshore work is constrained by weather windows which are short during winter and you will see how logistics and planning are influenced by this. Professional recognition ultimately requires industrial experience. It is now recognised by professional institutions that even as a student, certain competencies can be achieved in an industry context before graduation. Accordingly we generally encourage placement students to maintain the usual quarterly training reports so that they can continue with them after graduation and amass a portfolio of experience that spans several years.

What advantages does the scheme offer our graduates in terms of finding employment after graduation?
Preparation for the year in industry starts early in your degree. All our students have to prepare a CV and practise completing example application forms, but for industry students this is a necessity which adds motivation. By the start of your second year you will be fully prepared to start applying for placements, and then very soon you will be interviewed by potential employers. Such experience is invaluable for when you start thinking about graduate jobs applications during final year. When applying for graduate jobs, it is important to demonstrate your breadth of abilities. A significant industry placement will stand out on your CV and attract employers not least because they will know that your training time will be much shorter.

What sort of work should students expect to complete on their Year in Industry?
Duties on your placement will vary from simple tasks to taking control of large projects. Once it is clear what you are capable of, your involvement in specific jobs and projects will grow until it is quite possible to be doing the work of a graduate engineer. At some point a specific piece of work will present itself as an opportunity for your assessed project and this will be written up for the assessment.

Dr Lawrence Coates is course director for the energy programmes and specialises in water and marine energy capture devices. He also supports students from across the faculty in entering national energy competitions. Why should prospective students choose a course that offers a year in industry?
Lecturers do their best to provide real practical examples to support the theoretical taught material, and we arrange frequent site visits for students to see engineering in action, but there is no substitute for developing understanding of how industry really works by being totally immersed in it. There is also evidence that the professionalism developed by a regular work schedule dramatically improves a student’s academic performance when they return to their final year.

An industry placement helps to address the age old vicious circle of not being able to get a job without experience, and vice versa. As a result, a complete year in industry is extremely valuable.

Dr Lawrence Coates
Senior Lecturer in Engineering

Lawrence Coates
Senior Lecturer in Engineering

For further information Tel: 01603 594550 E: admissions@uea.ac.uk www.uea.ac.uk/ted

BEng Energy Engineering with Environmental Management with a Year in Industry UCAS code: H3A
A level (typical offer): AAB, A level (or equivalent) in Mathematics, plus a Science subject, GCSE Maths Grade B
International baccalaureate: 33 (incl HL Maths at 6 and one HL science subject at 6)

Typical offer grades are for guidance only – please refer to www.uea.ac.uk/ug/courses for more detailed and up-to-date course information.

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Some companies will structure your workload so that you gain experience of office or site practice as part of your normal duties.
Environmental Sciences is a rapidly progressing, vibrant and exciting field of study with excellent career prospects in the UK and beyond.

As an Environmental Science student at UEA, you will be trained to understand the complex interactions of human society within the bio-geosphere, and to provide solutions for enhanced industry and sustainable economies. Volcanology, seismology, ecology, conservation, meteorology, oceanography, environmental economics, environmental politics, geochemistry, soil science, climate change and energy resources are just a few of the subjects you could study. Whether you choose to study a broad range of the environmental sciences or specialise in one field, you can be sure that your degree will be challenging and inspiring from beginning to end.

Completing a year in industry gives you the opportunity to apply this knowledge in a practical setting, as well as providing you with the chance to network with key figures within industry and boost your employment prospects after graduating. How it Works

The year in industry degree programmes are four years in length with the work placement taking place during your third year. They are a minimum of nine months full-time employment and a maximum of 14 months. Throughout the work placement, you keep in close contact with an assigned mentor at UEA and your mentor will also visit you in your place of work at least once during the year.

Our Industry Links

We have well-established commercial connections throughout the UK and beyond. The East Anglian Business Environment Club (EABEC), based in the School is just one example. With a membership of over 100 East Anglian businesses from industrial organisations to local authorities, EABEC has several years of experience in facilitating student placements. It also organises an annual Projects Fair to bring together students and companies to establish project partnerships. We also have links and contacts with conservation agencies, EERRA, Environment Agency (lakes, estuaries, pollution, ecology and hydrology), Local Authority recycling programmes and the waste management industry.

Jonathan Davison

BSc Environmental Sciences with a Year in Industry

UCAS code F850

Why did you choose to study at UEA?

I was initially interested in studying the BSc Environmental Sciences at UEA because of its excellent reputation, and decided to visit to get a feel of the University and its atmosphere. When I visited I was impressed by the really friendly campus environment and the facilities on offer to people studying environmental sciences, which convinced me to make UEA my first choice.

How has your year in industry placement benefited you?

For my industrial placement I worked in the Energy and Environment Team at the Co-operative Group for a year. I think the placement provided me with a real sense of commercial awareness which you can’t get from a textbook, and I learnt to consider and assess different opinions on an issue to reach an informed decision. This is vital when it comes to working in the environment and energy sector, which sometimes involves controversial issues.

The placement also encouraged me to develop greater organisation and self-discipline, teaching me to apply myself thoroughly to a task in order to achieve a target. I definitely noticed the difference when I returned for my third year, and this improvement really showed in my marks.

How has your course helped you in your career so far?

The year in industry turned out to be a really solid platform for securing another placement. Thanks to my relevant experience, I gained a place on a summer industrial placement with a different company in a similar field between my BSc and MSc courses. Between all the projects I got involved in and the training courses I attended, the year in industry gave me plenty of content to add to my CV.

Jonathan completed his year in industry in the Energy and Environment Team at the Co-operative and has also completed a summer placement with RWE npower Renewables.

What advice would you give to students about to embark on their placement?

I would say make the most of the experience — you have the opportunity to become totally immersed in how a company is run and learn a great deal. You can use your position as a student to visit lots of projects which the industry partner is part of in a learning capacity, and sit in on meetings which you think sound interesting or might relate to your own future career aspirations. I would encourage students to ask lots of questions about what you can get involved in. Most people you come across will be very generous and affording, stopping to give you lots of their time if you say you are working as part of a year in industry programme.

What are your plans for the future?

When I finish my MSc I’d like to move into industry again. I’m hoping to make use of the experience I gained during my placement to create a really distinctive application, and I’m aiming to find a project management or environmental consultancy role in the energy sector.

Jonathan Davison

BSc Environmental Sciences with a Year in Industry

UCAS code F850

For grade requirements and more detailed information, please refer to www.uea.ac.uk/env/courses.
Our Natural Sciences with a year in industry programme is ideal if you wish to combine study in more than one science area but also retain a larger degree of flexibility than a joint degree would allow.

We provide our students with a unique opportunity to enrich and broaden the study of science and mathematics, by exploring the links between different scientific disciplines and how they relate to the world around us. This enables you to develop unique skills in a stimulating and challenging research environment whilst increasing your employment prospects.

Flexible Course
You will study subjects from at least two disciplines throughout the duration of the programme with at least 20 per cent taken in each of your chosen ‘major disciplines’. With your remaining time you will have the opportunity to study a wide range of different subjects.

How It Works
This degree programme is four years in duration with the work placement taking place during your third year, and a minimum of nine months full-time employment. Throughout the work placement, you will maintain close contact with an assigned mentor at UEA who will also visit you at least once during the year. You will also be supported by an industrial supervisor.

During the placement, you will keep a regularly updated work diary, so that your mentor will be able to ensure you are fulfilling all of the necessary learning objectives. Assessment of the year will be via a written report marked by both supervisors and a presentation.

Our Industry Links
We have a diverse range of current links with industry, including: Local and National Government; Astra Zeneca; Environment Agency; GlaxoSmithKline; ICI; Aviva; and Barclays Bank.

Matthew Henderson
BSc Natural Sciences
MSc Energy Engineering with Environmental Management

Why did you choose to study at UEA?
UEA gave me the option to study a wide range of subjects simultaneously through the Natural Sciences undergraduate course, and I chose to study at UEA for my MSc Energy Engineering because East Anglia is already a hub for renewable energy, with world-leading projects such as the East Anglia and Dogger Bank arrays. Norwich is an ideally sized city with all the facilities you could want — big enough to be an exciting place to live but small enough not to be intimidating.

How has your placement benefited you?
Having returned from my placement, I feel I have learned to manage my time better and effectively apply myself to tasks. My industrial experience of research methods has given me a greater motivation to learn, and knowing I’m gaining relevant skills that can be directly applied to work in industry is very fulfilling.

What advice would you give to students about to embark on their placement?
Be positive and don’t be afraid to ask questions. The placement is an immersive experience and a great opportunity to enquire into the processes which underpin companies. Don’t be afraid to share your opinions and ideas – often your employer will really appreciate a different perspective.

How has your course helped you in your career so far?
Without the connections made through my course I would have struggled to network and find a placement. It helps to have a pithy, tailored CV to hand out. Speaking to the advisors in the Careers Centre helped me plan and design mine, as they know exactly what employers look for.

What are your plans for the future?
When I finish my Master’s I am going straight into a position as a Graduate Engineer with an offshore wind company based in Great Yarmouth. From there I hope to make a difference in the UK’s low carbon energy transition.

What are the key skills you learnt at UEA?
Aside from the academic aspects of UEA, I have developed socially, which was a big help. Being able to communicate effectively is essential in industry, and it allows me to execute tasks in the most effective, time-efficient manner.

Did you make use of the Careers Centre during your studies?
The Careers Centre has been incredibly helpful. When networking with the intention to find a placement, it helps to have a pithy, tailored CV to hand out. Speaking to the advisors in the Careers Centre helped me plan and design mine, as they know exactly what employers look for.

How did you get your first job after UEA?
I initially looked for experience over the summer with the hope of getting my Master’s funded. After conducting a nine week placement I was offered the chance to return to Dawson Energy as a Graduate Engineer after my Master’s, and as of September I will be working for them.
Information for Employers

The year in industry programme provides a pool of knowledgeable science students from which to recruit, and companies are often so impressed with the quality of our placement students that they offer them employment after graduation.

Why Take Part in the Year in Industry Programme?
Offering students the chance to gain experience in your company through the year in industry scheme is a mutually beneficial arrangement. The UEA student you employ will develop practical experience, knowledge of industry and employability skills, while you gain a motivated, enthusiastic employee with excellent theoretical knowledge. Developing employability skills such as teamwork and communication is a core part of our teaching ethos, so our students usually find they are able to adjust quickly to the demands of the working world.

A Problem-Solving Solution
This is an opportunity for employers to benefit from a UEA student that has excelled academically, and is ready to apply this knowledge in an industrial setting. Employing a student gives companies an outside perspective — it is often easier for someone looking at a problem for the first time to solve it. The programme offers excellent value for money, and employers receive skilled workers that do not expect a graduate salary immediately.

If you would like to advertise a year in industry placement on our website, please complete our online submission form at www.employability.uea.ac.uk/employers/form.asp

A Year-Long Interview
The year in industry programme is sometimes likened to a year-long interview. Companies take on the best candidate for the job, but have the chance to assess their new employee and their range of skills over the course of a working year. It offers employers the chance to put an applicant through their paces without a long-term commitment, while the applicant provides support in areas which perhaps you have insufficient resource. Employers are under no obligation to employ any student that applies for a year in industry position, or offer students a paid position at their company after their placement, however they often do.

Views from a year in industry employer

Why did you choose to take part in the year in industry scheme?
I had had previous experience with University Placement Students and had wanted for some time to involve Proteo with the UEA. I had found managing/mentoring students in the past a really rewarding experience.

What sort of activities did the student you took on get involved in?
Originally the role was focused at software testing. In practice this became much broader and also involved hardware testing, deployment, support and demonstrations to clients.

Do you feel that they benefitted from the placement?
I believe that they have benefitted from exposure to all of the challenges that have been thrown at them over the course of the year. This will have built up a wealth of experience that will support future learning back at university and in the workplace.

How did having a student from UEA benefit you?
They bring fresh approaches, are flexible and willing to have a go at a wide variety of activities. Practically speaking this has helped us manage peak periods in a small company where resource is limited. Also because we plan to continue with students each year if we can, it also helps us think about succession planning and knowledge transfer from student to student as well as amongst the team. This is always something we struggle to make time for.

What advice would you give to other businesses thinking about taking part in the scheme?
I cannot emphasise how much we have benefitted from the two students we have had this year. They have become a real asset to Proteo. I would encourage organisations to hire students into their organisation and treat them just as they would any other employee – challenge them with real-world problems you need to solve and support them in their efforts as much as you can. They will not disappoint you.

I would certainly recommend this scheme to other businesses.

Proteo UK, Norwich

Proteo is a local business solutions company that have employed two UEA year in industry students in the last year. Caroline Perrement explains why they think the scheme is so worthwhile.
Careers and Employability can help you build the future you want. We have a range of initiatives to help you gain the skills and experience that employers are looking for today. No matter what stage you are at in planning your future, we have something for you:

The University has a range of initiatives to help you gain the skills and competencies that employers are looking for. The UEA Employability Strategy has been designed specifically to help you develop these vital academic and wider abilities through the curriculum. All degree programmes include opportunities to gain problem-solving, presentation, communication, IT and team working skills. Experienced careers advisers will support your progress, and our online tools such as CV Builder will help you chart your academic, employment and extra-curricular experience. Our services are open to all students.

You will also be able to explore the wealth of information we have available on different occupations, industries, voluntary organisations, gap year projects and further study. We provide training to help you get the most from whatever opportunities appeal to you. No matter what stage you are at in planning your future, we have something for you.

Careers Advice and Guidance
We offer professional careers advice, guidance and tailored self-help information, with a specific careers adviser for your School available for both short discussions and longer, booked sessions. We hold training sessions on interview skills, CV writing, applications and assessments, and other self-presentation techniques.

Events
Our Careers events cover diverse subjects and offer you the chance to develop your skills and talk to employers. We hold a series of presentations by local, national and international employers throughout each academic year that will give you an insight into working life across different sectors and organisations.

Jobs and Volunteering
Our dedicated Job Shop gives you access to a wealth of interesting vacancies, including part-time jobs, work experience and volunteering opportunities. It is an ideal resource, whether you are looking for casual and temporary employment during your studies, or graduate-level vacancies.

Internships and Mentoring
The University provides a wide range of paid internships for both students and graduates. Placements and internships can be an opportunity to see what goes on inside a business or organisation, giving you hands-on experience. You can also get involved in the UEA Mentoring Programme, which offers you the opportunity to talk to someone who has ‘been there and done it’. A mentor can help you to build your confidence, give you advice when it comes to making decisions regarding your future career plans or simply help you find out more about your chosen career path.

Enterprise
There are also opportunities for you to explore the idea of setting up your own enterprise. Our support ranges from one-to-one advice, where you can discuss your ideas and receive help shaping them, through to accessing funding to help you to get started. Whether you have an idea or a fully-developed plan, our Student Enterprise and Employability Development Team has the specialist knowledge to help get your ideas off the ground.

After You Graduate
Internship Programme for Graduates
We currently run a paid internship programme to help recent graduates increase their employability. The programme has been designed so it is mutually beneficial to both the participating business and the graduate, giving you the opportunity to kick start your career and prove yourself in an organisation that could help you secure permanent employment after graduation. We can help you enhance your CV and interview skills to help you secure an internship. The graduate tackles a strategic level project that can be up to three months in duration. Recent graduate projects have included marketing, public relations, building an organisation’s website and reducing a company’s carbon emissions.

www.uea.ac.uk/internships

Postgraduate study
A significant number of our undergraduates stay in Norwich to continue their study at higher degree level. For details of our taught and research postgraduate degrees or to download a copy of our Postgraduate Prospectus see our website.

www.uea.ac.uk/pgprospectus
Applying to UEA

Mature Applicants
We welcome students of all ages and backgrounds and operate a flexible admissions policy, which takes into account your life and work experiences. We are always pleased to advise you on the most suitable way forward if you do not have standard qualifications. Please contact us for an informal chat.
www.uea.ac.uk/return

Financing Your Studies
We are committed to ensuring that tuition fees do not act as a barrier to those aspiring to come to a world-leading university and have developed a funding package to reward those with excellent qualifications and assist those from lower income backgrounds. For up-to-date information on tuition fees, maintenance grants, student loans, scholarships and bursaries please see our websites.
www.uea.ac.uk/finance

International Applicants
We are home to more than 3,000 international students from 100 countries across Europe and the world. We offer a high quality British educational experience, and welcome the cultural diversity our international students bring to the University. For information about all aspects of life as an international student at UEA including English language requirements and help improving your English, please see our websites.
www.uea.ac.uk/international
www.intohigher.com/uea

Students with Disabilities
We welcome applications from students with disabilities. Our Disability Team offers information, advice and the co-ordination of support required by students both before and during their studies. The more information we have in advance of your arrival, the easier it is for us to make any necessary preparations. This can include any reasonable adjustments which are required for your studies or accommodation. We would be happy to arrange an informal visit to the University for you.
www.uea.ac.uk/services/students/disability

“UEA has been one of the big winners in the National Student Survey.”
The Times Good University Guide 2013

Visiting Us

We are always delighted to meet prospective students, either before or after their applications through UCAS. The best way to assess a university is to visit and experience what it has to offer. We warmly invite you to come and meet us.

Open Days
These give you the chance to find out about student life here, the courses we offer, student finance and graduate careers. You will be able to talk to lecturers and current students as well as taking a tour around campus. For more information and upcoming dates please see our website.
www.uea.ac.uk/opendays

Visit Days
Each year we hold a series of Visit Days where you are invited to visit the University to learn more about the course you have applied for, meet current students and staff and tour our campus. If you wish your parents to accompany you, we have a programme specifically developed for their interests including finance and welfare issues. For more information see our website.
www.uea.ac.uk/visitdays

Norfolk is the safest place in the country according to recent statistics issued by the Home Office 2013.
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We have taken good care in compiling the information contained in this brochure, which we believe to be accurate at the time of going to press. However, the provision of courses, facilities and other arrangements described in the brochure are regularly reviewed and may, with good reason, be subject to change without notice. Applicants for undergraduate programmes will be notified immediately of any material changes likely to have a bearing on their application, such as cancellation of, or major modification to, degree programme(s) or modules; changes to the delivery or location of courses; changes to accommodation provision; changes to entry requirements; or changes to fees and charges to be levied by the University.

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The University of East Anglia operates an Ethical Investment Policy.

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UEA Achievements
“UEA consistently ranks among the best universities in the country for student satisfaction. Its well taught degree courses and excellent facilities combined with a great social life and a nice place to live all on one stunning campus gives students the best of all worlds.”
The Sunday Times University Guide 2013

“The university consistently makes the top 10 in the National Student Satisfaction Survey and was voted top English university in the latest What Uni Student Choice Awards.”
The Guardian Good University Guide 2013

“This excellent university is among the best on virtually any grounds you care to mention.”
The Virgin Guide to British Universities 2012

“A top 20 university.”
The Guardian University Guide 2014
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