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Industry & Employer Newsletter

6 October 2015

Welcome to the industry newsletter – which is designed to help identify and highlight the ways that those working in science industry can most effectively engage with the Royal Society of Biology.

This month's newsletter features a range of news items, training courses and events that may be of interest, as well as an interesting spotlight on [BASIS Registration Ltd](#), an independent standards setting and auditing organisation for the pesticide, fertiliser and allied industries.

[Biology Week 2015](#) is fast approaching and this year it will run from Saturday 10th - Sunday 18th October. Biology week is an annual celebration of the biosciences, with events around the UK and beyond.

The Society's recently created [Employer Advisory Group](#) (EAG) is continuing to grow. If you would like to find out more about the Employer Advisory Group, or would like to become a member of the group, please [contact](#) the group's secretariat Emma Kelson.

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter freely within your networks, and let us know if there is anything else that you would like to see or if you would like to contribute to it. If you have any suggestions or comments, please do not hesitate to get in touch with [Emma Kelson](#).

Dr Aileen Allsop

Chair of the Employer Advisory Group (EAG)

Spotlight on....BASIS

[BASIS Registration Ltd](#) is an independent standards setting and auditing organisation for the UK Agricultural Industry and allied sectors. The organisation was established by the Pesticide Industry at the request of the UK Government in 1978.

BASIS offers a range of accredited qualifications and examinations for advisors from the pesticide, fertiliser and related sectors. The organisation manages the UK Professional (CPD) Registers for qualified advisers for pesticides, fertilisers, public health pest control experts and other connected categories of professionals. Being an independent organisation, BASIS provides a forum for industry, the regulatory authorities and government to discuss how professional standards can be maintained, improved and promoted.

We have over 35 years' experience of successful initiatives intended to protect human health and the environment from risks associated with the use of pesticides and promote a holistic approach to crop protection. Since 1981 BASIS Registration Ltd has been involved in two sectors of training within the pesticide industry; store keeper training and crop protection courses for field sales and technical staff from different agricultural sectors: Agriculture, Horticulture, Vegetables, Seed Treatment, etc. Currently around 300 people are trained each year.

At the moment, from the total of 56 BASIS courses, 51 have been re-validated and accredited by Harper Adams University and are fully compliant with EU standards for Higher Education. In 1992 BASIS Registration Ltd, in collaboration with the industry, launched a professional (CPD) register for staff qualified to give advice on pesticide use to the minimum recognised standards. Currently there are over 10,000 members on BASIS Professional Registers.

BASIS [Crop Protection courses](#) are designed to encourage and promote the principles of IPM, minimising the reliance on chemical options. We are promoting an Integrated Pest Management and holistic approach through our Continuing Professional Development schemes.

Rob Simpson

Managing Director at BASIS (Registration) Ltd

BASIS is a supporting member organisation of the Royal Society of Biology. Please [contact us](#) you would like further information on organisational membership.

Access to Higher Education Diploma (Science) - Employer Involvement

The Royal Society of Biology (RSB) with the generous support of the Gatsby Foundation have collaborated with the Royal Society of Chemistry to support local FE colleges running an Access to HE Diploma (Science) course. Colleges signed up to the scheme this year are recognised by the RSB and Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) in providing these mature students (aged 19) with the opportunity to achieve the Registered Science Technician award (RSciTech). The registers are held by the Science Council and information regarding professional registration can be found at their [website](#).

To achieve RSciTech status students must demonstrate: professionalism in working with employers, transferrable and scientific skills and development of academic and professional skills in a work environment. Students taking part must carry out projects that are employer-led to demonstrate that their research is current and relevant to industry. This is where we hope you can help!

We are looking for local employers to support the project by offering a project brief. This could be simply submitting a piece of work or project to be undertaken in the college's laboratory facilities, or inviting the student to carry out research in your workplace or a combination of the two.

The benefits to employers of involvement are:

- opportunities for progressing research or exploring ideas
- assistance with data collection and analysis to support existing or additional research promotion
- engagement with the local community
- networking opportunities and engagement with Royal Societies and the Science Council staff development

Examples of projects include:

- Batch/bulk analysis
- Environmental monitoring
- Method/process validation or development
- Quality testing
- Sample analysis; preparation investigation/development

To give you an idea about the level of project work, the following link provides the criteria students must demonstrate to pass the Access to HE Diploma: [Practical Scientific Project](#).

If this is something you would be interested in getting involved in please do not hesitate to [contact](#) Emily Ross (Registration in FE (Access) Scheme Coordinator). A list of frequently asked questions is accessible [here](#).

Biology Week 2015

[Biology Week](#) is a celebration of life science with [events](#) all over the UK and beyond for everyone from children to professional scientists! It is a great opportunity to share your passion for biology!

Biology Week 2015 will run from Saturday 10th - Sunday 18th October. Get involved with the biggest week in the biology calendar by [organising your own event](#), finding out [what's happening](#) in your local area, getting your [local school](#) involved, or sharing and following [#BiologyWeek](#).

RSB Accreditation Update

The Royal Society of Biology's Degree Accreditation Programme recently expanded to have two distinctly different types of accreditation; Advanced Accreditation and Accreditation. The Degree Accreditation Programme recognises academic achievements and aims to drive up standards of learning and teaching in the biosciences.

Advanced Accreditation recognises academic excellence in the biosciences, highlighting degrees which contain a significant research element and educate the future leaders of research and development. This was launched back in 2013 and now 179 degrees programmes at 22 Universities have been awarded Advanced Accreditation.

Accreditation was launched more recently, in March 2015, this focuses on an independent and rigorous assessment of degree programmes which contain a solid academic foundation in biological knowledge and key skills, and prepare graduates to address the needs of employers. During the pilot 54 degree programmes at 8 universities were awarded Accreditation.

To find out more about our Degree Accreditation Programme and to view an up to date list of all the universities with Advanced Accredited and Accredited degrees please visit our [website](#).

Degree Accreditation Awards Ceremony 2016

The Degree Accreditation Awards Ceremony will be taking place in Spring 2016 to celebrate the achievements of students and graduates who have attained the highest levels of attainment in their Accredited or Advanced Accredited degree programmes.

This year's awards ceremony will offer employers the opportunity to network with these top students and discuss potential graduate programmes or other opportunities offered within their organisation. This is a rare opportunity to meet top graduates from across the country and should not be missed. Networking will also take place during a drinks reception, which will be attended by senior academics, policy makers and colleagues from the bioscience industry.

The Awards Ceremony venue and date will be announced shortly. To find out more information about the event and the sponsorship packages available, please [contact](#) the accreditation team.

Life Sciences Careers Conference - Autumn 2015

[Registration is now open](#) for this year's Life Sciences Careers Conference, taking place at the Royal

Veterinary College, London on 21st October 2015.

Open to all bioscience undergraduates, it offers a wide range of fantastic seminars, workshops and an exhibition to get careers on track! It costs just £10 to register, but is free for Society student members, who will receive a refund after attending.

Secure your place by [booking on our website](#).

Universities can also [contact](#) Dan Rowson for promotional material and [sponsorship packages](#) are also available.

Training

The RSB offers a wide range of training opportunities to help you develop professionally and acquire new skills.

Individual members and organisational members of the Royal Society of Biology are entitled to substantial discounts on training.

An introduction to drug discovery - 27 October 2015

Who is it for? Non-specialists who want to increase their knowledge of the discovery process.

What does it involve? The history and key principles of drug discovery to phase 1 clinical trials.

For more information please see the [website](#).

An introduction to drug development - 28 October 2015

Who is it for? Non-specialists who want to increase their knowledge of the drug development process.

What does it involve? Exploratory clinical drug development, full drug development, life cycle management.

For more information please see the [website](#).

For the list of courses that have take place so far, please see the [website](#). If you would like to subscribe to the Society's monthly training newsletter, please [contact](#) our training officer.

Forthcoming training events

23 October

[Microscopy art](#)

27 October

[Drug discovery](#)

28 October

[Drug development](#)

4 November

[Networking event](#)

16 November

[Persuasive scientific writing](#)

External news and opportunities

Ash dieback research, funding and policy

September's ash dieback bulletin from the UK Plant Sciences Federation (UKPSF) can be found [here](#).

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