

## Benefits of Degree Accreditation

There are a number of benefits to both universities and students/graduates:

### 1. Degree Accreditation for universities

#### Recognition of academic quality

Accreditation provides a mark of 'good practice' allowing a wide ranging comparability among high performing institutions, as well as providing an assurance to employers that graduates have appropriate skills and knowledge (therefore increasing graduate competitiveness in the global jobs market).

#### Enhanced recruitment opportunities

Potential students have the confidence in knowing they will study a course that meets a set of criteria determined by bioscience professionals independent of the University. Accreditation was informed by the needs of employers and developed in collaboration with experts from industry. Employers recognise the value of accredited degree programmes and the graduates they produce.

#### An external review of programmes and a mechanism to drive change within an institution

The process of Degree Accreditation not only assesses degree programmes but also shares and highlights good practice. As part of the application process, your degree(s) will be assessed by senior academics who may suggest improvements to the programme, as well as highlight existing areas of excellence. As such, universities that have undergone an assessment have highlighted the process of accreditation as being extremely beneficial in its own right.

#### Publicity following successful Accreditation

You will be entitled to use the Royal Society of Biology Logo and associated literature to advertise that your degree(s) is accredited (online and in printed literature). The RSB will advertise your university as accredited on our website which is viewed by prospective students looking to study a bioscience degree at university. You will be able to quote aspects of good practice highlighted during the visit on your website and at open days.

“ The accreditation process was extremely useful to us, including the mapping out of our degree schemes and skills, meeting yourselves and getting the opportunity to share our Swansea University Bioscience experience and the positive outcome of gaining accreditation. It was a lot of hard work for us, but it has really helped us to focus and refine our curriculum, it was a very positive experience. ”

**Dr Penny Neyland**, Biosciences Programme Director, **Swansea University**

## 2. Degree Accreditation for Students and Graduates

### **Greater employability prospects and enhanced competitiveness in a crowded global jobs market**

The accreditation programme establishes a profile of key skills that bioscience employers can recognise in graduates from accredited degrees. Many employers use evidence-based recruitment processes, graduates will have evidence of education, training and assessment in many key subject-specific skills (e.g. as provided to the RSB by Learned Societies) and transferable skills.

### **Professional body accreditation of their degree**

Stands out to employers, shows that degrees have been assessed and enhanced by the accreditation process, and provides additional evidence of graduates knowledge and skills.

### **Free membership to the RSB upon graduation**

Graduates from accredited programmes are entitled to free subscription to the Society for *one year* following graduation. This will expose graduates to a significant network of bioscience professionals, stay up-to date with biology-related developments (e.g. via the free weekly bulletin of key discoveries and initiatives and policies worldwide) and provide students with additional recognition of their skills and experiences. This is extremely beneficial to students particularly at a time when they are applying for their first employment. Membership of the Society gives students and graduates a feeling of belonging to a wide community of biologists, interested in biology for its own sake but also to contribute their knowledge and skills to help meet world challenges.