

2018 Professional Development for Chemistry Majors at Newcastle University

The inaugural **Professional Development for Chemistry Majors at Newcastle University** was held from Oct 14-19, 2018. A total of 8 chemistry major students participated in this trip.

The aim of this programme was to observe and learn about chemistry-related careers through workshops and chemical industry-related visits organized by Newcastle University. The programme was kindly arranged and designed by our host at Newcastle University, Dr. Andrew Pike.

Newcastle University is ranked 20th in the world in the Times Higher Education Golden Age University Rankings 2018. Newcastle University achieved the best possible Gold Award in the Teaching Excellence Framework.

The Chemistry program at Newcastle University puts emphasis on professional development for students throughout their years of university studies. It has long-standing relationships with a range of regional, national and international businesses and industries, including Nissan, Siemens, Procter and Gamble, GSK and Northumbrian Water. The University sees their educational strategy as not just about students gaining an excellent degree, but that they learn the 'soft' skills they will need to start their journey into the world of work.

In the 2018 program, the students were led and chaperoned by Dr. Angela Yuen. The program included visits to Akzo Nobel, a company that manufactures paints, and Palintest, a water analysis technology company. There were also sessions teaching the writing of a cv, preparation of LinkedIn profiles, instrument demonstrations, sharing session with a start-up company, and opportunities to interact with the local students and staff. Students also attended some chemistry lectures at Newcastle University. There was also time for sightseeing in the area since both Newcastle and Edinburgh were rich in history.

Participating students also needed to submit an essay reflecting on this professional development experience.

Students shared: "... After the career development programme in Newcastle, I am more familiar with the operation and the daily routine of the people who work in these kinds of chemistry companies. ... I realize there are other kind of posts available... such as what Lain in Palintest, is currently doing, ie. sales marketing. It can be one of my consideration in my career path."

"Before coming on this study tour, I only preferred to work in Hong Kong since Hong Kong is my home. Yet, after this study tour, I found out that there are lots of work opportunities in other countries like the UK and these companies most likely need to work globally and cooperate with international companies and NGOs....The world is now talking about internationalization, we cannot avoid working globally. And I believe that it is important for all of us to equipped with international senses..."