

On-campus Representatives Day

5th September
Charles Darwin House, London



Mark Downs CSci FSB Chief Executive



The role of on-campus reps and membership

Jenni Lacey Marketing Assistant

Mark Leach Membership Marketing Manager



Agenda

- 13:30 – 13:50 The role of On-Campus reps and membership
- 13:50– 14:10 Degree Accreditation programme
- 14:10 – 14:40 Breakout discussion: membership benefits
- 14:40 – 15:00 Tea/coffee break
- 15:00 – 15:20 HE projects and policy
- 15:20 – 15:40 Careers, bursaries and grants
- 15:40 – 16:10 Breakout discussion: careers support & advice
- 16:10 – 16:25 Training programme
- 16:25 – 16:45 Biology week
- 16:45 – 17:30 Drinks reception and networking



On- Campus representative: Mission statement



- Promote membership
- Share information about the Society's activities
- Encourage BioSoc registration
- Feedback to the Society



About the Society

- Professional body
- Representative
 - 13000 members
 - 100 MOs
- Media
- Government
- Public interest



Member benefits

- Information and support
- Careers information
- Travel grants
- *The Biologist*
- Networking opportunities
- CV
- Discounted text books
- £15 a year!



Promoting membership

- Freshers' fairs
- Careers fairs
- Lectures and Seminars
- Departmental offices
- Email updates
- Promotional materials
- Information & support



Registered BioSocs

- Aston University
- Birkbeck, University of London
- Blackpool and the Fylde College
- Canterbury Christ Church University
- Coventry University
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Glyndwr University
- Hamstead Hall CLC
- Imperial College London
- Keele University
- Lancaster University
- London Metropolitan University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Newcastle University
- Oxford Brookes
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Staffordshire University
- University of Abertay Dundee
- University of Birmingham
- University of Brighton
- University of Dundee
- University of Exeter
- University of Leeds
- University of Lincoln
- University of Liverpool
- University of Malta
- University of Manchester
- University of Plymouth
- University of Reading
- University of Sheffield
- University of St Andrews
- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- University of Worcester



BioSocs - benefits

- E-alerts - news about the Society and relevant opportunities
- Networking - interaction with our members, local branches, and other student societies
- Free resources & merchandise
- Share their passion for biology and get involved
- Reduced membership rates for members (£12.50 a year)
- Free student membership for the President
- Help and advice on running the society

www.societyofbiology.org/biosocs



Feedback

- What do you think of our membership benefits?
- How are our membership benefits perceived?
- How can we communicate these better to members and potential members?



Accreditation and Recognition

Paul Trimmer
Accreditation
Manager





SKILLS NEEDS FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

CREATING THE POOLS OF TALENT
TO WIN THE INNOVATION RACE



Why?

- STEM – nationally recognised gap in the provision of adequately prepared citizens, from primary through HE
- Chain of reports
 - *The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)*
 - *Office for Life Sciences (OLS)*
- Addressing the skills gap between education and employment, especially in research roles.

Brief History

- Two years of consultation and development
- Pilot completed in March 2012 – focused on biochemistry
- Funding secured from UKCES
- Expansion of accreditation programme to cover three streams:
 - Molecular Aspects of Biology
 - Whole Organism Biology
 - Ecological and Environmental Sciences
- First applications received in January 2013



HEIs with Accredited Degrees

- University of Bristol
- University of Birmingham
- University of Sheffield
- University of Liverpool
- University of Manchester
- University of York
- Royal Veterinary College

+ 10 HEIs have just applied



Framework

- NOT about wide recognition of threshold standards
- NOT making judgements on the wide range of excellent degrees in UK HE – will not be appropriate for all programmes
- IS identifying programmes with specific learning outcomes
- IS a partnership with Learned Societies and Industry
- IS about sharing good practice and ensuring the continued excellence of the UK Life Sciences



Framework

- Peer review process
- Outcomes-based approach
- **Period of practice:**
 - the effort required by the student for the research component of this work would normally be the equivalent of at least 80 credits, with the final assessment made at a minimum of level 6 (QCF/QCFW/EQF)/level 10 (SCQF)
 - the assessment of the period of practice will include a written report and other evidence (eg a self-reflective report, or oral examination) to show achievement of the learning outcomes
 - a site visit or other significant contact, eg teleconference, from the sponsoring HEI
 - passing the period of practice must be a requirement for the award of the degree



Framework

1. Academic excellence
 - Largely judged through range and appropriateness of assessment
2. Research-active environment
3. Infrastructure
 - Environments and processes
4. Other outcomes
 - Appropriate maths and physical sciences
 - Critical, analytical and reflective approach
5. Subject specific skills and knowledge



Process

- Two application rounds:
1st January & 1st September
- 3 stage process
 1. Accreditation Assessment Panel reviews documentation to produce a preliminary report
 2. Panel undertakes a site visit including discussion with programme team and students. Panel reports findings including strengths and weaknesses
 3. Recommendation to Council for 5yr accreditation



Cost

- During the funding period cost is subsidised
 - £2500 for a single programme
 - Society covers expenses
- When funding ends
 - £5000 for a single programme
 - HEI covers expenses (estimated £3000)

Applications for assessment of multiple programmes accreditation will be charged depending on the level of similarity between the programmes.



What we can do

- Visit your HEI to talk about accreditation and answer any questions
- Offer support when putting applications together



What you can do

- Apply to become an accreditation assessor
- Take information for your colleagues
- For further information contact the team:
Accreditation@societyofbiology.org



Degree Recognition

- Recognition of degrees that deliver more than 50% biology content is an important part of our support in higher education.
- Graduates automatically fulfil the educational requirements for [Associate Membership \(AMSB\)](#) of the Society



Requirements of recognised degrees

- Classified as an Honours Degree
- Comprise at least 50% biology content with a clear use of the application of biological principles including a balance of contemporary and traditional science of which at least half of this content (at least 90 credits) will be in years after year 1 (year 2 in Scotland and Ireland)
- Include a project or dissertation in biology
- Offer experience of experimental work or data handling in biology



Recognition

- Cost is £750 per programme
- Application form can be found online
- Further information contact
sophierobinson@societyofbiology.org



Accreditation and Recognition



Discussion session: Membership benefits



Break time



Society of Biology Higher Education Projects & Policy

Zoë Martin AMSB
Education Policy Officer



HE Projects

- Degree Accreditation and Recognition
- Heads of University Biosciences (HUBS)
- External Examiners database
- Open Education Resources
- HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year
- HE Policy Work
 - UG Practical work project
 - HE Teaching project
- HE Newsletter
- HE Careers advice and guidance



Heads of University Biosciences



- Became a Special Interest Group in 2012
- 80 Heads or subject leads from Bioscience Departments
- Executive committee of 12 Heads, with secretariat support provided by the Society of Biology

www.societyofbiology.org/hubs



Heads of University Biosciences



HUBS activities

- Two annual conferences
- Sharing best practice and networking
- Source of expertise for policy work
- Aids development and funding of projects



External Examiners Database



- Based on the UK Centre for Biosciences database of expertise – original data being acquired
- Register of potential external examiners and their experience and expertise run through the Society of Biology website
- Launching in 2013 – will contact OCRs with developments



Open Education Resources Project



JISC



- Website live <http://heteaching.societyofbiology.org/>
- Funded to promote the use of OER by the bioscience community and launched at end of 2012
- Searchable, peer-reviewed OERs focusing on:
 - Laboratory, field work and multimedia protocols
 - Video and animated demonstrations
 - Data handling exercises
 - Case studies
 - Health and safety information
- Disseminated at events (HUBS Spring Meeting, OER2013, HEA STEM Conferences)
- Website being redesigned to be in line with new Society of Biology website later this year

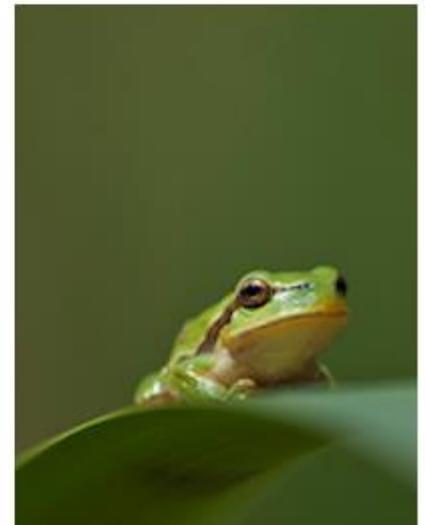


Welcome to Open Education Resources!

Welcome to the Society of Biology's new website to support the use of Open Education Resources (OER) by the bioscience community.

This project has been supported by the Higher Education Academy and JISC to identify, collect and promote bioscience OER. Full details of the project and our outputs can be found [here](#).

This collection of OER aims to support teaching practical biology in Higher Education, and the resources featured on the site include lab and field work protocols, data handling exercises, videos of techniques and multimedia alternatives to wet lab work. Our panel of HE teaching practitioners have peer reviewed all the resources featured, and provide a short description of each resource and how it could be used.





Closing date
for applications is the
15th November 2013

Applications opening
next week

Could you be the
**HE Bioscience Teacher
of the Year 2014?**

HUBS
Heads of University Biosciences

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Organised by the Society of Biology and sponsored by Oxford University Press and Heads of University Biosciences, the HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year Award recognises outstanding learning and teaching practice in the biosciences.

The winner will receive the Ed Wood Memorial Prize: £1,000, one year's subscription to an OUP journal of choice, one year's free membership of the Society of Biology, and free attendance at the HUBS learning and teaching themed conference in Spring 2014.

Find out more at www.societyofbiology.org/btoy



HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year



The HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year Award recognises outstanding learning and teaching practice in the biosciences

- Displays **individual excellence** through the design and development of approaches to teaching that have proven successful in promoting bioscience student learning and achievement
- Undertakes **scholarly and professional developmental activities** that actively influence and enhance the learning of their students
- Provides evidence of **supporting colleagues and influencing** bioscience student learning beyond their own department and institution



HE Bioscience Teacher of the Year



- Application is through self, peer or management nomination, outlining suitability under each of the three criteria by **Friday 15th November 2013**.
- A judging panel shortlist five finalists who prepare a more detailed case study to support their application, including written and video evidence.
- All finalists will be invited to the HUBS learning and teaching themed Spring Meeting (1st May) where the winner will be announced and will present their case study
- Case studies & video entries from finalists on our website

HE Policy work

Reactive

Responses to consultations (in the last year)

- Society of Biology response to the Institute of Public Policy Research on the **future of Higher Education in England**
- Society of Biology response to the **White Paper: Further and Higher Education (Wales) Bill**

Proactive

- Gathering evidence: surveying members, establishing committees, commissioning research
- Producing Position statements



How we form our Policy responses

- Input from our members, Member Organisations, Special Interest Groups (e.g HUBs)
- Task forces established for large projects
- Targeted invitations to experts within our membership – database of expertise and interest



Audit of UG Practical Work



- Joint project with HEA, Biochemical Society and HUBS
- Aim: determine the state of practical training for UK UG biosciences students, identify challenges to and opportunities for improving this provision
- Steering group to plan, scope and produce survey with researchers
- Survey is out now and will be followed up by telephone interviews
- Outcomes – report analysing results in November and will identify gaps, exemplars of best practice etc.



HE Teaching Project

- Joint project with the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Physiological Society & HUBS to consider the status of teaching within bioscience departments and medical schools in UK universities
- This is the start of a process for us to provide more support for our members who are teaching at HE.
- First steering group meeting in June to decide survey methodology
- Finalising survey methodology and survey will go out in the next two weeks
- Second steering group meeting in October to analyse results and decide next steps/dissemination activity



HE Newsletter

Provides an update on:

- Society of Biology HE work
- HUBS
- Our MO HE work
- Events
- Resources
- News

[Can't read this email properly?](#)



Summer 2012   



Welcome to the Society of Biology's quarterly Higher Education newsletter

With news of our special interest group HUBS, an update on the Higher Education work of the Society and information on resources, grants and events to keep you up to date.



Hubs of University Biosciences



Hubs of University Biosciences

HUBS Spring Meeting 2012



The report and presentations from the HUBS Spring Meeting 2012 held at Chicheley Hall in May are now available [here](#).

The meeting featured sessions on biomaths, the Society of Biology's Degree Accreditation Programme, a debate on how to provide value for money for students, interactive workshops on virtual experiments and digital microscopy and the winning Bioscience Teacher of the Year case study on the use of technology in teaching.

HUBS Summer Reception



On the 13th June 2012, Dr Julian Huppert MP, Mark Lancaster TD MP and Andrew Miller MP jointly co-hosted the first ever HUBS Summer Reception in the House of Commons, bringing together members of HUBS with Learned Societies and politicians. Professor Sir Tom Blundell FRS Hon FSB gave the keynote speech, sharing his experience of being a Head of Department for over 30 years.

To watch the videos of the speeches please [click here](#)

Any Questions?

Contact me

zoemartin@societyofbiology.org



Careers, Bursaries and Grants

Amy Whetstone

Sophie Robinson



Staff



Sophie
Qualifications and Skills Officers
Post 19 careers



Amy

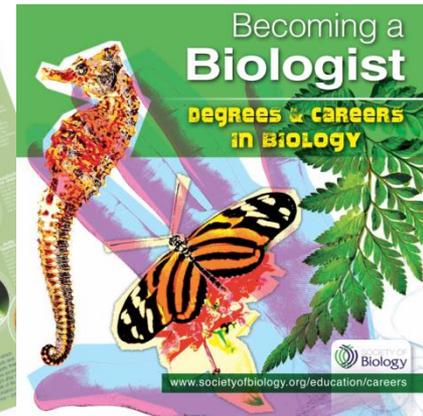


Amanda Hardy
Schools and Colleges
Officer
Pre 19 careers



What we do

- Exhibit at events
- Give talks
- Provide information and guidance
- Produce resources



Bioscience Careers Group



**Bioscience
careers**
Advice on careers
in and from Biology



Next Steps

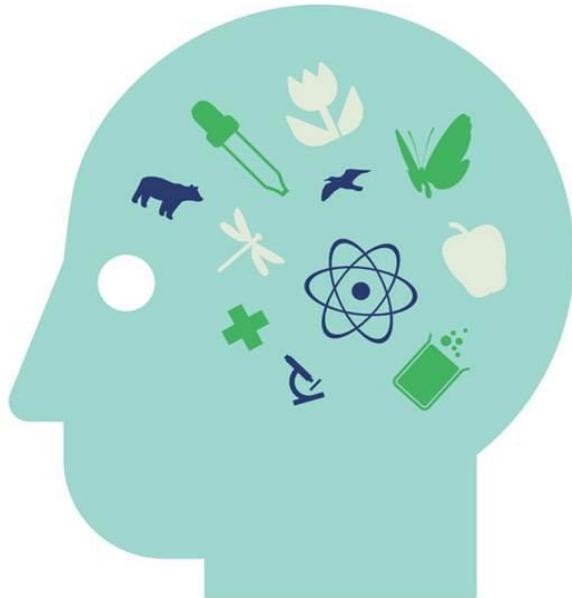
A careers guide for undergraduate bioscience students, with up to date information on...

nextsteps:
options after a bioscience degree

- Job seeking strategies
- The importance of skills
- Postgraduate study options, both in and outside science research
- Making applications
- Interview techniques
- The guide also includes
 - Example CV's
 - Information on careers in teaching, medicine, dentistry, healthcare
 - A comprehensive resource list

- View online at www.societyofbiology.org/nextsteps
- Bulk order copies for all your students - boxes of 50 available at cost price (40p per booklet)

Life Sciences Careers Conferences



**University of South Wales
Wednesday 23 October 2013**

**London Metropolitan University
Wednesday 13 November 2013**

**Newcastle University
Wednesday 20 November 2013**



Life Sciences Careers Conferences



- Planning your career
- Career pathways in academic research
- Career pathways in industry
- Careers in the environmental sector
- Biomedical and clinical science careers
- Careers in science teaching
- Careers in science communication
- CV workshop



Life Sciences Careers Conferences



- Free to members
- £10 for non members
- Student membership is £15

More information at

www.societyofbiology.org/lsc



LSCC sponsorship opportunities

- 200-300 students/graduates per event
- Sponsorship available from £35
- Exhibit from £75



Grants and Bursaries Staff



Amy Whetstone
Undergraduate research
bursaries



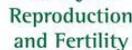
Karen Patel
Travel Grants



Undergraduate research bursaries



- Opportunity for students to gain research experience
- Students will take up the award during the summer vacation in the **middle years** (i.e. 2/3, 2/4 or 3/4) of their degree
- Run in conjunction with learned societies and with funding from the Nuffield Foundation
- 59 projects funded last year



Undergraduate research bursaries



- Supervisor applies on behalf of the student
- **Postdoctoral researchers** and **new lecturers**, early in their careers are also encouraged to apply, and should note this on the application form
- Students should contribute to the design of their project



Adjudication

- Adjudication is by a panel of expert referees
- Students who are expected to achieve a 1st or 2.1 degree who have not yet had an opportunity to experience research
- Research projects that have a clearly defined objective
- Projects which give scope for initiative on the part of the student



Selection of successful bursaries

- Saltmarsh regeneration in the Eden Estuary
- Validation of specific microRNAs in growing retinal axons
- Investigating replication restart on leading strand in *E. Coli*
- Mechanisms for voice and speech recognition in the human brain.



www.societyofbiology.org/urb



Travel Grants

- Opportunity of overseas travel in connection with biological study, teaching or research to those who would otherwise be unlikely to have it
- Twenty grants of £500 are available every year to **members**
- Two deadlines during the year, spring and autumn. The next deadline is midnight on Thursday 31st October 2013



Application

- A full CV
- A written academic reference (MSB level only)
- A 300-500 word statement which must clearly specify:
 - Details of the conference or project
 - How the grant will be spent
 - How the applicant will benefit from this opportunity
 - The expected outcomes of the conference or project



Successful Travel Grants

- From jewel scarabs to dung beetles - the cloud forests of Cusuco National Park, Honduras
- Investigations into African swine fever – Madagascar
- Research into the functional significance of the undivided heart in turtles - Denmark



www.societyofbiology.org/travelgrants



Other grants and bursaries

- Wide range of other grants available
- BBSRC, Biochemical Society, Society for Endocrinology, Marine Biological Society in the UK and lots more....



www.societyofbiology.org/get-involved/grants



Careers break out discussion



- What else could we do to support you and your students?
- Are there any resources that you feel would be useful that we don't provide already?



Discussion session: Career support and advice



Extended Training Courses Programme at the Society



Training Courses as a Member Benefit



- Support professional recognition and CPD
- Provide opportunities for enthusiastic biologists to increase knowledge and techniques
- Discounted course fees offset membership fees



Courses held

- *Nature Photography*
With SB's photo competition
- *Excellence in Expert Report Writing*
Expert witness testimony
- *Learning and Teaching in Higher Education*
Filmed by SelectBio for a web course
- *Project Management – An Introduction*
A popular course in planning and running projects
- *Persuasive Scientific Writing & Writing for the Non-Technical Audience*
Two courses in writing skills and argument strategy



New Training Officer

- Extend range and number of courses
- Increase profile of courses
- Courses to held around the country
- Survey to see what courses are needed
- Find course providers and venues
- Hold joint courses with other organisations



Suggested Courses

- *Science Policy*
- *Biology Drawing* – with SB's Drawing Competition
- *Returning to Work*
- *Professional Body Organisation and Responsibilities*
- *Good Laboratory Practice*
- *Bird Song and Identification*
- *Grant/Paper Writing*



Your Help is needed

Can you help us by suggesting:

- Useful courses
- Good course providers

Offering to:

- Give courses
- Host courses
- Jointly run courses with the Society

Please contact cliffcollis@societyofbiology.org

- Thank you! -



Rebecca Nesbit

rebeccanesbit@societyofbiology.org

0207 685 2553



Flying ant survey



www.societyofbiology.org/flyingantsurvey



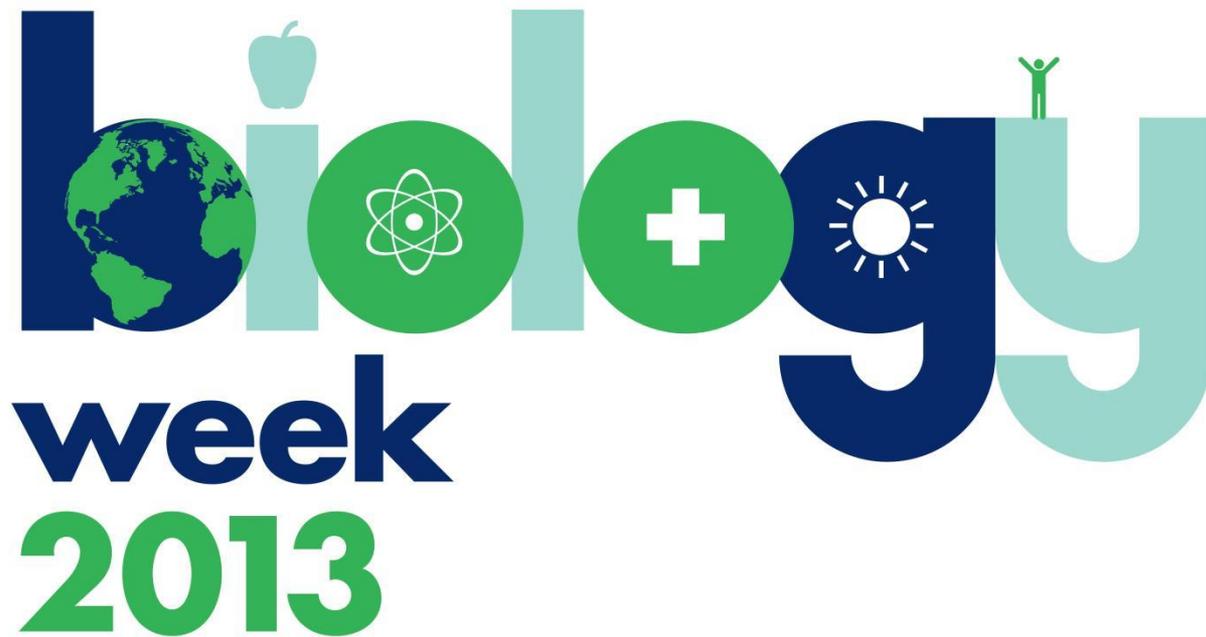
House spider survey



www.societyofbiology.org/housespiders



Biology Week



12th – 18th October 2013

www.societyofbiology.org/biologyweek



Schools work

Resources about food production and waste

Biology (14-16)

What goes into a cow?

Geography (11-13)

Where does your food come from?

Assembly/ form time

Animation – don't waste food!

www.societyofbiology.org/stoy



Thank you!

rebeccanesbit@societyofbiology.org

0207 685 2553



Drinks and networking

