

## Would You Like to Gain Life Science Industry Experience During Your PhD as Well as Widening Your Professional Network?

Promega UK has an exciting opportunity for young scientists working within their University environment to become a Student Support Ambassador.



Promega Corporation is a leader in providing innovative solutions and technical support to the life sciences industry. The company's 4,000 products enable scientists worldwide to advance their knowledge in genomics, proteomics, cellular analysis, drug discovery and human identification. Founded in 1978, the company is headquartered in Madison, WI, USA with branches in 16 countries and over 50 global distributors.

Promega UK is based in Southampton and works with Universities and academic institutions across Great Britain. This paid role will support a Key Account Manager (KAM) in their day-to-day work with academic customers, giving the opportunity for a PhD Student to gain industry experience during their study period. The post offers the opportunity to forge links between the KAM and Student Ambassador to support the dissemination of life science student-specific initiatives, to deepen the connection and collaboration between academia and industry.

We are currently looking for second and third year students studying in the discipline of Biological and/or Medical Sciences with coverage of at least one of the following subject areas: **Biotechnology, Cancer Biology, Cell and Molecular Biology, Genetics, Microbiology, and/or Virology**. To excel in this part-time role, you will have excellent communication and networking skills and be studying for a PhD that covers at least one of these areas. As an 'on-the-ground representative', you will need to engage with fellow PhD students and research staff; actively promoting Promega's products and services, as well as supporting new initiatives including arranging training sessions and roundtable discussions.

You will need to create a good working relationship between yourself and the local KAM. Think this could be you?

Why not read on to learn more from two of our Student Support Ambassadors. For more information about Promega, please visit [www.promega.com/resources/student-resource-center](http://www.promega.com/resources/student-resource-center)

## Andra

Andra was a second year PhD Student at Manchester University. She joined Promega to help support her studies. During her previous studies she had worked in similar roles but working with more retail based companies, rather than scientific support.

### What drew you to this role?

I saw the advertisement and have worked in a similar role but supporting retail sampling. I thought it would be a great opportunity to use my science skills to engage with fellow scientists within my School. I am also considering my options for when I finish my PhD, and thought this would be a good way to build links with industry.

### What do you most enjoy about being a Student Ambassador for Promega?

I really like Promega and have enjoyed working with the key account manager for Manchester, who I meet with every week. The role has given me more confidence to talk to students than I would do normally, plus I get to talk about research. I work with the Account Manager to aid the students with samples and giveaways to help improve their research or just have some additional support.

### Do you feel this project has benefitted your future career?

Definitely - I've met wonderful people both from the university and Promega – we were trained on their products, so we got to know what scientists could use for their research. Promega also worked with me to enhance my social media profile – which in itself will be great to support my steps. I'd never used Twitter before and can see the value of LinkedIn in making additional connections.



## Aya

Aya was a first year PhD student at the University of Aberdeen studying Neuroscience. This is her first role working within a student support role. Aya is passionate about how drugs affect different organs in the body and came to Aberdeen to research drugs and their effect on the brain.

### What drew you to this role?

Having recently joined the University of Aberdeen, I know it takes a number of years to complete a PhD, I'm already considering my options once I have qualified. I thought it would be a good way to make additional contacts within the University as well connecting with a commercial company and the people who work for Promega. The majority of the team at Promega have PhDs and were like me at some earlier point in their careers. A colleague highlighted the role, which has been part-time and I thought it could fit in well with my studies, as well as helping to support me financially.

### What do you most enjoy about being involved with the student support programme at Promega?

I've really enjoyed the communication aspects of the project – reaching out to my fellow students to understand what they are working on and how I can help them with Promega resources. My priority has been to work with as many students, whilst learning from Chris, who is the local account manager for Promega. I feel more confident talking to other students. With the lock down, there hasn't been much face-to-face interaction, but I've still managed to reach out and discuss projects with my fellow students – I think it's benefitted both of us.

### Do you feel this project has benefitted your future career?

The project has helped me identify new products and solutions which I might not have been aware of, prior to the training which was part of the role. The role has also 'opened my eyes' to the commercial world – I've learnt about marketing and sales from Promega and am more aware of life outside of the University, in this sector, and this was one of my reasons for applying for the position.

