Internship for the Policy Department

My internship experience at the Biochemical Society gave me the chance to gain valuable experience in policy and public affairs. I joined in the months running up to the general election, an exciting time for science policy. I enjoyed the chance to contribute towards the Biochemical Society's public affairs work, helping the Society advocate for Government policy changes on behalf of its members.

I worked with Beck, the Society's Policy and Parliamentary Officer, who gave me an interesting and wide-ranging set of projects to work on. This allowed me to get a full sense of the scope of the policy and public affairs work that the Society undertakes.

The internship gave me the chance to meet a range of other public affairs professionals too: the Society works collaboratively with other organisations, including the British Ecological Society, which is also resident in Charles Darwin House. Together, these two membership organisations run and host the interesting and informative Policy Lunchbox sessions. I was also given the opportunity to attend external policy events and seminars with the organisation.

As part of my day-to-day work at the Society, I sourced and identified content for the Society's policy blog, and gathered evidence for briefings and consultation responses. One project that I particularly enjoyed was researching and writing an article for the society's member magazine, the Biochemist - a topical article on the controversial proposals to introduce the criteria of impact into research funding assessments.

The internship was invaluable work experience and drawing on my experiences during my time with the Society, I successfully applied for my current job as a Political Researcher for a political intelligence company.