

StudentShapers Recruitment: Calling all 1st and 2nd year Chemistry students

Joining the 'Chemunity': Improving the transition into university chemistry

Bursary: £325 / week for 5 weeks

Who should apply: We are looking to recruit current 1st and 2nd year students from the Department of Chemistry to participate in this project in part of the summer vacation. The project would ideally involve students across both years and from Home/UK and Overseas backgrounds to represent the diversity of experiences when moving from school to university. If you are a Home/UK student who identifies as a first-generation university student or widening participation student, we are particularly keen to hear from you.

Campus/Location: South Kensington, but project will largely run online and can be fully remote.

Project details: The transition from school to university is known to pose many challenges, such as adapting to different ways of learning, managing time independently, or becoming part of a new community of friends and colleagues. Some of these challenges are unexpected for students and adapting to the less-structured environment requires development of varied skills and confidence, not just exploring new subject content. Support for this transition can help students feel part of the learning community faster and increase success.

This project aims to create resources that will help students joining our chemistry community develop their confidence and skills as university learners. The engagement of student partners is essential, and your first-hand experience will help identify where to focus support during this transition and what resources are most relevant.

The main area of activity within the project will be development of resources as part of pre-sessional and induction material to help 'demystify' the initial university experience and generate awareness of the academic skills that will be vital going forward. Indicative examples might include: videos covering 'a day in the life' and 'things I wish I'd known'; tips and material to help with key skills such as how to take notes; activities to help build the peer group. Student partners will be crucial in defining what content and resources are useful and creating this material, contributing to wider recommendations on improving the experience of transition.

In addition, there will be opportunities to be involved in other work, based on the interest of student partners, such as creating peer-learning resources to support key concepts and areas of revision within the curriculum.

STUDENTSHAPERS

This would build on existing work and contribute to establishing peer-support sessions to run during the academic year.

Participating in this project will give you an opportunity to

- enhance your communication skills, through resource development and dialogue with team
- develop your professional skills including in organisation, team-work and project management
- gain experience in educational design and research
- positively influence the university experience of current and future students

Timeline: Staff partners will be gathering initial perspectives and information from students during the summer term and student partners will be able to draw on these findings during the project. Student partners would be engaged full-time for five weeks during the Summer break, which can be flexible within 5th July – 16th August, enabling resources developed to be available to incoming students for the next academic year.

We would love to hear from you if you are:

- passionate about improving the experience of transition into university chemistry for all students!
- keen to help shape our Chemunity
- interested in working with staff to co-create resources to support inclusion and academic success
- motivated to work both as part of a team and independently to achieve project goals

How to apply: To apply for this project, please e-mail Dr Charlotte Sutherell (c.sutherell@imperial.ac.uk) and Dr Euan Doidge (e.doidge@imperial.ac.uk) with an expression of interest of 300-500 words, outlining why you wish to participate in this project and what ideas or perspectives you would bring to the team. Please include your year group, if you are Home/Overseas or if you would identify as a first-generation/widening-participation student. Applications will be reviewed, and you may be invited for a short, informal interview through MS Teams. Please email us if you have any questions.

Deadline: Monday 10th May, 12 noon (UK Time)

Contact details: Amelia Barron (amelia.barron@imperial.ac.uk); Dr Euan Doidge (e.doidge@imperial.ac.uk); Dr Charlotte Sutherell (c.sutherell@imperial.ac.uk);

Imperial College
London

STUDENTSHAPERS

imperial.ac.uk/studentshapers

Twitter: @studentshapers