

European Symposium on Biochemical Engineering Sciences

Day 1 – Sunday

The first day! Firstly I have never ever travelled by myself on a plane! Something which I am sure being a now female professional I am sure I am going to have to do more often however not going to lie I think this was the most nerve wrecking part of the whole conference. So one thing I have definitely taken from the whole experience is that I have the independence/confidence and ability to travel alone.



Once arriving in Dublin another hurdle to overcome is map reading in Dublin is almost impossible the streets aren't straight and it's an absolute nightmare!! Two hours of pure hell and stress of wandering around in circles I eventually arrived at the Royal Dublin Society at which the conference was held. The building itself is impressive giving excitement for the next few days of lecturers and presentation. Once inside I was handed the programme and taken to the main hall where the opening ceremony began.

The opening ceremony gave us a taste of Dublin and what was to come out of the conference. I have attached a little video of the Irish dancing! Just wow which I could dance like they did. I put up my work alongside other researchers there is a PDF attached of my work. I was so proud of myself, the three months of tears stress all felt worth it, that my work as MEng student was being presented alongside PhD standard work. Literally was like the icing on the cake, I have my first degree and also the research I had done for the last year was at European standard, it give me a little bit more confidence in myself that I do know what I am talking about.

The conference proceedings for the Sunday included a PAT workshop which gave me a deeper understanding into what other researchers were doing in this area which was associated with my work around Europe and actual the world! It demonstrated how relevant my work was and also allowed me to see names of people who I wanted to network with later on. Later in the evening the first round of poster presentation occurred so I stood next to my poster to defend/answer any questions. Also it gave me chance to

speak and network with the IChemE secretary allowing me to ask questions about the chatership process. He gave me lots of advice however the best piece was: “Be PROACTIVE” and “Lean into discomfort” i.e look for areas against the criteria which you have little or no experience and ask for it or find it. Also to keep a professional diary but don’t record day to day activity record examples per week of where you have demonstrated the key competencies.



Day 2 – Monday

Today was enriched with information on break through research within the industry! The first speaker was actually the CEO of Fujifilm DB the company which I now work for. It was good to see that the company I will work for had been chosen over others to present the Industrial perspective of biopharmaceutical industrial economy. Take home message from the speaker was that “Connectivity is the new efficiency” meaning that for success requires global collaboration of universities industry and manufacturers. Also another massive point was we need to pass on the passion of science to future generations. Speakers throughout the day passed on information there research, I mainly attended the PAT ones.

Some information which I feel will be used to other Ogden scholars was a workshop I attended called “getting published – how to present your article to survive peer review” from Elsevier.

I have included my notes below on the lecture as I feel it may be useful for others the guidance is how to get your article published:

1. Find the right journal see where your reference articles are published and consider how related they are to your article– i.e make sure your audience fits
2. Remember to consider what the EDITOR is looking for:
 - a. Title – short/informative/precise/statement
 - b. Cover Letter (1 page) – DO NOT think this is a waste of time it isn’t. Don’t just copy what’s in your scope. Use the cover letter as your selling point advertise your work. Give background information, explain practical applications and discuss project aim.
 - c. Abstract – reviewer will only see this before deciding whether it’s worth reviewing, therefore make sure it’s good. 200 words only, use

- past tense avoiding vague terms and abbreviations. Split into four parts: 1) Why is it new?, 2) Methodology 3) Results 4) Conclusions
- d. Figures - label, title, avoid shadows and glows and too much colour.
 - e. Introduction – explain why your work is novel
3. Remember 1st and last words of sentences are most significant.
 4. ISBN 978-1-118-57070-8 Good book.

Day 3 – Tuesday

I hadn't realised how tiring it would be to sit and listen to increasingly interesting stuff however it was absolutely exhausting. Therefore today I thought it would be appropriate to try to see a bit of Dublin to give my brain a well-deserved break over lunch. The morning proceedings included a presentation from CPI who addressed issues the industry are facing with an aging work force. Something which I was really surprised about was that the industry sees university students as "unapt" for industry. "The graduates coming from university lack understanding, practical skills and not fit for purpose" Which I found particularly harsh as in my own opinion you go to university to gain a depth of knowledge into the technical knowledge of the subject then when you go to a graduate scheme etc they teach you how to apply them skills into a work scenario. However, the speaker did mention that his top tips for a graduate would be get a job that increases your interpersonal skills and try to get as much practical practice as possible.



During the lunch break I managed to go on a whirlwind tour of Dublin main sites including: St Patricks Cathedral, the Castle and Town Hall and also the Temple Bar shown in a few pictures below. I think it's important to try and see the cultural parts of the place your visiting!!



After lunch I participated in a career development workshop which included industrial representatives for: Boehringer Ingelheim, Fujifilm and Bilfinger. The workshop allowed for questions to be answered but as the companies were multi-national the answer was never

straight forward. However as this is something which again could help other Ogden Scholars I have summarised my notes below in Top ten tips:

1. Be REALISTIC and Aggressive – confidence is good but get the balance right in 5 years you're not going to be CEO
2. Get your BUZZ WORDS from the job description then show you meet them
3. Do your research use social media find out who the hiring manager is then give the company a call ask for the manager and ask questions!
4. **"If you want something you have to go get off your arse and get it."**
5. Social skills are a priority, Networking is Key.
6. There is a cultural difference cross countries to what is expected from a CV/interview process make sure you have done your research if applying abroad for example in Germany you need a picture on your CV and the CV signing.
7. Plan your career – Moving is good
8. The BEST end of interview question: "What reservations would you have about offering me this post"
9. Use spell checker as spelling mistakes are a big NO.
10. Always deliver above expectations – continuously excel.



On the night there was a gala dinner where we heard the IChemE secretary discuss the challenges faced by Chemical Engineers due to the fall of oil and gas and the iron works and that the industry is moving towards the biotechnology industry is the future. The meal gave me a chance to network and reflect on some of the amazing information I had heard through the night. It also gave me the opportunity to sit in a formal dinner allowing me to increase my work social skills and being able to hold a technical conversation over a drinks.

Day 4 – Wednesday

The last day I was physically exhausted from the wealth of information I had received and constant difficult questions on my poster which I had learnt how to answer appropriately giving enough detail. After 3 days of presenting my poster listening to highly complex information along with guidance from highly experienced professionals I was well and truly ready to come home to reflect on my experience. The last day went as a blur which I think was mainly due to pure exhaustion, my tip to anyone going on a 4 day conference be prepared to feel absolutely exhausted from long days, constant networking and the mass of

information. The proceedings ended, I removed my poster and travelled back to Newcastle where I started back at work the next day!

Conclusion of Experience Gained



From my time I gained a lot of confidence in myself, showing I can be independent. I have the knowledge required and now multiple contacts within the industry to succeed. I think this trip has offered many life skills which have installed confidence in the next leap in my professional career. Skills including networking with company CEOs, ability to present in front of an educated audience and answer difficult questions and independence!

I would like to thank The Ogden Trust in providing me with not only the opportunity to carry on working on my dissertation over the summer but also for giving me the opportunity to present it in-front of industrial representations and subject experts.

With this being my last ever internship I will always grateful for the support you as a charity have given me over the last 6 years. You have shaped me as a person and without your help and support I would not be in the place I am now. I hope in the future my professional development will continue to be as successful so that I can continue to make the charity proud. If there is any way I can give back I will as the experiences you have offered me I will. **SO THANK YOU**

From the conference my three take home action points:

1. I am hoping to help inspire the next generation of women scientists and engineer
2. I will continue to deliver above expectations continuously
3. I am a confident strong independent engineer ready to take the Bio industry by storm – watch out FUJIFILM