

# STUDYING MICROBIOLOGY 3

## Vacation work

A period of microbiology related work experience is a useful addition to your CV. Some of the larger companies who employ microbiologists do have a policy of employing undergraduates in the summer vacation. An up to date list of pharmaceutical industry recruiters including companies offering summer work can be found on the ABPI website ([www.abpi-careers.org.uk](http://www.abpi-careers.org.uk)) This type of work is very popular, so early planning and application is advised. In general, paid placements are not easy to find, however some hospital and university laboratories offer students the opportunity to gain unpaid work experience.

### Funding for summer vacation work

A few organisations offer funds to support summer vacation work in research laboratories:

- ▶ The **SGM** scheme offers grants to Society members to fund penultimate year undergraduate students undertaking a 6 - 8 week research project on a microbiological topic in the summer vacation (£180 per week). The closing date for applications is in February each year. Applications should be made by academic supervisors, who must be SGM members. (Application forms are available at [www.sgm.ac.uk](http://www.sgm.ac.uk))
- ▶ The **Wellcome Trust** provides Vacation Scholarships to encourage undergraduates with an interest in biomedical research. The small stipend is for a period of up to 8 weeks in the summer vacation (£170 per week or £180 in London). Applications are made through the student's department. (Wellcome Trust, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE; [www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk))
- ▶ The **Nuffield Foundation** offers undergraduate research bursaries to enable students in UK institutions to carry out scientific work for 6 - 10 weeks in the summer vacation (£170 per week or £180 in London) The closing date for applications is in February each year. (Nuffield Foundation, 28 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3EG; [www.nuffieldfoundation.org](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org))
- ▶ The **BSPP** (British Society for Plant Pathology) offers a few undergraduate research bursaries (£200 per week for 8 - 10 weeks). The scheme provides undergraduates with research experience in a plant pathology lab. Applications must be made by BSPP members on behalf of a named student (who should be in the middle year of a degree course). Closing date is 1 April each year. ([Education@bspp.org.uk](mailto:Education@bspp.org.uk); application forms are available at [www.bspp.org.uk](http://www.bspp.org.uk)).
- ▶ The **Biochemical Society** also offers a few vacation studentships (£160 per week) of 6 - 10 weeks for penultimate year undergraduate students. Society members apply on behalf of a named student. Closing date is at the end of February each year. (Biochemical Society, 3rd Floor, Eagle House, 16 Procter Street, London WC1V 6NX; [www.biochemistry.org](http://www.biochemistry.org))
- ▶ **SfAM** (Society for Applied Microbiology) runs a 'students into work' scheme each year. Full Society members can apply on behalf of an undergraduate student for up to £160 per week to fund a studentship of up to ten weeks in the summer vacation before the final year. Closing date is in February each year. (SfAM, Bedford Heights, Brickhill Drive, Bedford MK41 7PH; [www.sfam.org.uk](http://www.sfam.org.uk))

The following publications contain general information about finding summer jobs:

- ▶ *Summer Jobs in Britain 2006* edited by David Woodworth & Guy Hobbs, ISBN 1-85458-344-1  
- includes companies offering vacation traineeships and types of work available listed by geographical area
- ▶ *Summer Jobs Abroad 2006* edited by David Woodworth & Victoria Pybus, ISBN 1-85458-342-5  
- includes information about summer and winter jobs

If you are unable to find a microbiology related summer job, make the most of any work experience that you can get. Remember that most jobs can provide you with valuable experience and the opportunity to develop important transferable skills that will enhance your CV.

[www.biocareers.org.uk](http://www.biocareers.org.uk)