

Commercial Skills for Chemists: Introduction & Overview

Market Research-Desired Skills of Chemistry Graduates

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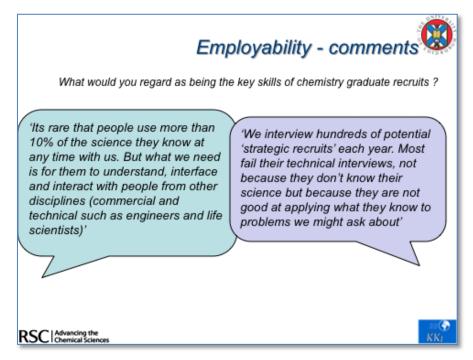






Market Research - Desired Skills of Chemistry Graduate Recruits





KKI Associates and the School of Chemistry of the University of Edinburgh



Desired Skills of Chemistry Graduate Recruits

KKI Associates, and the School of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh, were asked to develop Commercial Skills Modules following a proposal to the Royal Society of Chemistry. The project has been supported by the National HE STEM project. The National HE STEM Programme (http://www.hestem.ac.uk) is a three-year HEFCE/W- funded initiative aiming to widen participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and enhance the skills and knowledge base of the workforce in these areas.

The RSC commented in 2011: 'Several reports sought to identify deficits in the skills of graduates in general and chemical science graduates. Employers reported a clear knowledge gap with regard to financial and commercial skills required to effectively turn ideas into business and urged curriculum development in this area.'

We reviewed some of the documents and research available. There is some research from the viewpoint of recent recruits,

http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/assets/ps/documents/graduate_skills/chemistry.pdf

and in Europe Cefic produced this summary report¹, http://www.cefic.org/Documents/Learn%20and%20Share/CEFIC-Skills-For-Innovation-Web-04%20(2).pdf

However, we felt we should check their conclusions with some more substantial input from employers. The picture below summarises the key findings, and more detailed comments are given on the following pages.

What Makes for Employability?

Interviews of Chemical Industry Partners

Procter and Gamble, Afton Chemicals (Ethyl), Ingenza, Syngenta, Sasol, comments from GSK, Selex-Galileo

Key findings - potential recruits need to be good at

Innovation

Working in team based activities

Problem solving

Working through formal project/process systems Integrating their specialist knowledge with others'

Communication Skills



ZSG KKI

¹ Although the conclusions look interesting the full report doesn't seem to be available anywhere

