Dear industry and employer representatives,

We are seeing major changes in the scientific and education landscape. The development of T Levels aim to revolutionise technical education by the provision of courses equivalent to A Levels, which will combine classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience during an industry placement.

One of the biggest questions is what impact will a no-deal Brexit have on the UK science industry? Many collaborations with the UK science industry come from the EU and a no-deal Brexit could potentially have a detrimental effect on the industry. With this in mind, it is important to create a hospitable immigration environment.

Some key life science trends will see the growth of contribution of academia towards research and scientific innovation, and digitalisation of R&D and healthcare. Collaboration via many industry stakeholders is fundamental in driving innovation, and this will further solidify the UK’s role as a leader in science and research.

Policy Update

China approves ethics advisory group after CRISPR-babies scandal
Bioethicists hope a national committee will help close loopholes in the country’s biomedical ethics regulations.

The AI revolution in science: applications and new research directions

Health Secretary announces £250 million investment in artificial intelligence
A new National Artificial Intelligence Lab will use the power of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the health and lives of patients.

CONSULTATIONS

Biosecurity and human health: preparing for emerging infectious diseases and bioweapons inquiry
Closes: 6 September 2019

National strategy on clinical trial transparency
Closes: 6 September 2019
Improving higher technical education
Closes: 29 September 2019

Standards for biodegradable, compostable and bio-based plastics: call for evidence
Closes: 14 October 2019

Royal Society of Biology News

Technical Skills Survey

The RSB is developing a suite of training courses designed specifically for technical staff working across the biosciences. Before embarking on this project, we would value the input of the technical community in identifying the areas in which there is the greatest need for additional training.

If you are employed as technical staff or an employer/manager of technical staff, please would you take 5 minutes to complete the survey below:

SURVEY

RSB comments on PM’s plan to ‘cement the UK as a science superpower’ by shaking up immigration rules for scientists
"It is not enough for the UK to be a possible destination; we must continue to be a popular one," is at the heart of a response from the RSB to the Prime Minister’s new plans to introduce a fast-track visa route for scientists.

Prime Minister recognises UK biosciences as “extraordinary” and calls for reform for GM regulation
In his first speech as Prime Minister, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP described the UK Biosciences Sector as “extraordinary.”

Number of animal procedures in science decreases, 2018 home office stats reveal
The Home Office has released the statistics of animal use in science in 2018, with data showing that there has been a 7% decrease in the number of procedures; the third consecutive annual decrease and the lowest figures since 2007.

RSB Training Update

Online training courses
Gopher Science Lab
Introduction to Project Management
Introduction to Trusteeship and Governance

In-person training courses
Train the Trainer
Leadership in a Laboratory Environment
Programming for Biologists
The Royal Society of Biology has developed an Industry Skills Certificate. This new initiative is designed to support the employability of scientists in industry. With extensive research and input from our Employer Advisory Group (EAG), we have created a bespoke set of online and in-person training courses that are aimed to enhance the experience, skill set and knowledge of scientists.

If you are an organisation and would like to register staff in bulk for this certificate, or require any further information please visit our web page or email training@rsb.org.uk

**Update:** We are pleased to announce the following Industry Skills Certificate courses are now available through our online learning platform - myLearning:

- Core Business Skills for Biologists
- Personal Skills for Leadership

**External News and Opportunities**

**T Levels**

T Levels have been called “the biggest shake up of technical education in a generation”.

We know that skills and high quality training are crucial to ensuring London employers remain competitive and dynamic – while creating valuable opportunities for young people to thrive in their careers.

To ensure that employers and business leaders from the widest spectrum of the London business community can get the latest update on the benefits of both T Levels and industry placements, we are holding an event on **Wednesday 4 September** at **Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AH** from 12 noon for registration, refreshments and networking for a 12:30pm start.

To register for this event, please click [here](#) to book your place.
If you have any questions, please contact the events team [here](#) or on 020 8481 3302.
Can public support for R&D help your business innovate?

Innovate UK is part of UK Research & Innovation (UKRI). With a strong business focus, we drive growth by working with companies to de-risk, enable and support innovation.

Innovate UK and the University of Bath have launched an online survey aimed at UK businesses to determine the extent to which public support for research and development (R&D) can promote innovation.

TAKE SURVEY

New opportunities for clinical pharmacology scientists, with first-ever apprenticeship scheme set to support UK’s Life Sciences Industrial Strategy

Approval has been granted for the development of a new national apprenticeship standard for the role of clinical pharmacology scientist, thanks to a cross-sector drive to address the skills gap.

Apprenticeship standards are aimed at addressing priority skills areas, and the critical shortfall of skilled clinical pharmacologists is recognised as one of those areas.

Science Apprentices: Skills Development Day

Does you employ bioscience apprentices? If so please encourage your apprentices to register for this Free Event run jointly between RSC, IOP and RSB

This workshop is designed to help your apprentices:

- understand the value of their apprenticeship and the skills they’ve gained
- complete their end point assessment
- understand the importance of continuous professional development, e.g. applying for professional registration
- prepare for possible internal job interview

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