

Case Study: Inspiring The Next Generation As Careers Outreach Comes Full Circle

SIP Ambassadors play an essential role in inspiring and engaging the next generation of scientific talent. In this case study, we're shining the light on Danny Acquisto, Associate Scientist at GSK.

Danny has successfully combined a rewarding career in developmental research whilst working towards a degree apprenticeship in Applied Bioscience at the University of Kent. He's also recently completed his SIP Ambassador training and is ready to share his own experience with others in the local community.

Why did you decide to apply for an apprenticeship programme?

I wanted to have an interesting and varied job that had the potential to have an impact on people's lives. At school, I really enjoyed science subjects so a career choice in a STEM industry felt perfect for me.

I remembered a talk about Apprenticeships that GSK gave at our school and from this, I attended a week's work experience shadowing a scientist, at that stage, I knew this was something that appealed me. I applied to university as well as the apprenticeship programme, but the benefits of combining work plus study via an apprenticeship really gave me the best of both worlds and outweighed the costs of going to university. At the end of summer next year, I will have completed my degree and have 5 years of industry experience under my belt!



*Danny Acquisto,
Associate Scientist at GSK*



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feel better
live longer

What do you enjoy about being an apprentice?

One of the main things, for me, is the level of support you get from your colleagues, everybody is happy to help and pass on their experience. It's also great to get an instant opportunity to put in to practice what you learn, both approaches complement each other very well and give a more rounded level of knowledge.

You recently completed your SIP Ambassador Training, how did you find that?

I really enjoyed the training, it all took place virtually, was highly interactive and the time went quickly. There was an opportunity to plan and prepare for an outreach event in a group setting, which meant we could bounce ideas around with other Ambassadors. It was hands on learning, which is something I liked.

I certainly feel better equipped and more confident to deliver events, and the resources you can access make things a lot easier, but I think more people need to know that this type of support is available.

How do you plan to use your SIP Ambassador Training?

During my A-levels there was this big decision around which course to take and which university to go to, this pressure on a young person is huge. I was fortunate enough in that I remembered the Apprenticeship talk from GSK. I'd like others to know the full range of career options out there, how a STEM career can be so rewarding and that there are a different career entry routes available.



A cohort of GSK employees receiving their SIP Ambassador training

The SIP Ambassador Programme

SIP Ambassadors deliver presentations about their career histories, talk about the breadth of careers available in science and promote opportunities for students in their community. Their experience and passion for science careers is helping to inspire future generations.

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