

MY EXPERIENCE OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL IN FOOD SCIENCES 2017

by Danielle Preissner

I attended the 2017 Food and Crop Science Summer School and for me it was a life-changing experience. I wasn't sure that doing a food science course at degree level was suited to me but attending this course convinced me this was the right direction. If you're a food science/crop science enthusiast, the summer school will widen your knowledge. If you are undecided if food science/ crop science is the career for you, then this summer school will demonstrate all the different routes and roles available in this industry.

The example lectures I experienced were fascinating and fun; they covered topics such as the incorporation of bugs into the daily diet! Another focused on 'Magnum' ice-cream, which included tasting the product throughout the lecture!

My highlights of the summer school were the Sponsors' evening meal and the factory visit. The meal gave me an opportunity to talk with evening visitors representing food industry organisations and companies. I met with my sponsor; she gave me lots of advice about approaching food businesses and even talked to me about work experience/job opportunities. This evening gave me a brilliant insight into what it is truly like to work in the food industry.

For the factory visit, my group got the chance to visit a very well-known bread producer, 'Hovis'. This was a great learning opportunity. I got to see the product in its raw ingredients form, through to a freshly-made loaf, sliced and packed, ready to be despatched to the supermarkets. We all left with our Hovis goodie bags too!

Overall, the summer school was the perfect balance of activities to educational learning sessions. The sessions were really interactive and engaging and, of course, because I was mixing with fellow students that had the same enthusiasm in food/crop science as I have, it was a really good social and early networking opportunity.

There were a great group of ambassadors (current students) that helped us with their knowledge of the summer school, the food/crop courses, the layout of the campus and their university life experience. It's a welcoming, friendly campus with great facilities so being residential was not an issue, if anything it gave me a taster of the real deal.