

Careers in Animal Science

The Nottingham Animal Science degree is highly regarded by a wide range of employers.

The unique blend of fundamental science, practical application (including human nutrition/physiology) and insight into social perspectives has enabled graduates to follow careers in:

- Para-medical / para-veterinary sciences and the pharmaceutical industry
- Technical nutrition involved with research and development for the animal feed industry or within Government advisory institutes
- Academic / industrial research programmes in basic and applied physiology, nutritional biochemistry and animal production both in the UK and overseas, often leading to higher degrees
- Banking and finance
- Business consultancy in management, sales and marketing in the feed and human food industries.

Graduate Profiles

Some of our recent graduates:

Katie Hibberd

I graduated in 2011 with a BSc (Hons) in Animal Science. Throughout my second and final year at university I realised that my interests lay within nutrition and meat quality, from the modules I had chosen throughout the course of my degree.

In September 2011 I joined the Technical Graduate Scheme in the Fresh Meats Division at Tulip Ltd.

Tulip Ltd is a leading food producer in the UK supplying to the retail and food service markets. We offer a comprehensive range of high quality pork, bacon, sausages, cooked meats, savoury snacks and canned products.



The Fresh Meats division comprises two abattoir sites, three deboning halls as well as a

retail packing plant across three different sites. Due to its large infrastructure I have been able to undertake projects on all three sites, mainly being based on the retail side of the business. During the last year I have been heavily involved on the Tesco Account ensuring the requirements of the technical team at Tesco are met. In addition, I have been fortunate to gain experience in other departments such as QA (Quality Assurance), Wholesale, New Product Development, Commercial, Production and Supply Chain which has given me greater business awareness during the graduate scheme.

Currently I have been given the opportunity to look over the technical department in retail at another site. This retail operation is part of the curing side of the business in which gammon and bacon are produced. This will help me widen my knowledge of the products Tulip produce and is a fantastic opportunity for my career progression within the business.

As well as my day to day role all graduates undertake the graduate development programme covering areas such as time management, communication, problem solving, leadership, presentation skills which definitely helps you develop in your specified job role. After completion of the first year, I will move onto the Management Excellence course, which will give me the knowledge and skills I require to manage a team of people. As part of the graduate development programme each graduate is assigned a mentor. All mentors are key individuals within the business that have experience over a number of years in many different areas. Mentors are great for support, guidance, advice and can shed light on their own previous experiences which is very useful in any workplace when starting at a graduate level.

Tulip has given me a fantastic opportunity within the food industry and I can definitely see myself progressing within the business and hope to be with them for many years to come. To find out more please visit <http://www.tulipltd.co.uk/> and <http://www.tfng.co.uk/>

Lorna Harvey

The Animal Science degree at Sutton Bonington really fuelled my interest and passion in starting a career in animal and endangered species conservation and choosing this university was the best decision I made. The lecturers and staff were highly supportive and approachable making studying here challenging yet easier than expected. The course in itself is exciting as you get the chance to do many practical sessions in the campus surroundings or in the lab. I have been able to apply the knowledge I have gained from labs, lectures and my own research to hopefully lead me into my future career.

I have always been a lion enthusiast doing my final year research project on



lion conservation efforts in the UK. I was determined to find such volunteering opportunities in Africa. I quickly discovered Antelope Park in Zimbabwe, home to the African Lion and Environmental Research Trust (ALERT) lion rehabilitation programme, as seen in the TV documentary series—"LION COUNTRY", where I spent three unforgettable weeks.



As a volunteer you are deeply involved in the vital lion research. Each day is spent around the site whether it is cleaning enclosures, making toys for lion cub's enrichment or getting up close and personal with lions on lion walks. There are many exhilarating activities volunteers are able to do: interacting with horses and elephants riding them viewing an abundance of astonishing wildlife, experiencing the thrill of watching a kill on the night encounters and the adrenaline

rush of having 4-7 mature male lions charging in your direction during the lion feeds. Explaining how my experience here influenced my outlook on life would take me forever. The place, the people and the animals gave me so much more than I could have ever imagined, I am truly a different girl then the one that arrived. When I left it felt like I had left my home and my heart behind with the lions, the staff and the community. I eagerly applied and successfully obtained the Animal Management and Research Internship with ALERT at Antelope Park for 4 months in 2013 and have even been involved in ALERT fundraisers and research. Volunteering even for a short time at Antelope Park has opened up windows and doors for me to begin my career in conservation. It is an unparalleled opportunity for anyone who has a passion and dedication to saving endangered species."

Joanne Peacock

"When I left Sutton Bonington, I was employed as a laboratory technician for a company that analysed animal feed. This experience meant I was offered employment as an animal nutritionist working for SCA NuTec, a brand of Provimi-global leaders in animal nutrition.

SCA NuTec specialises in complete feeds for piglets along with farm minerals/premixes and concentrates for producers who mix their own animal feed. My day-to-day job duties include formulating bespoke diets for animal producers and administering the current formulations when there are new raw materials to consider. I am also involved in dealing with technical enquiries, both from feed merchants and farmers.

SCA NuTec participates in a significant amount of export activity and products therefore need to be registered in countries before they can be sent there. This means dossiers need to be prepared on each of the products which I assist with.



SB has directly contributed to my employment, as it is part of a University that is recognised within the animal feed industry. The direction that I took in my degree meant that I got a good grounding in the fundamental principles of animal nutrition, production and physiology across the main species.

The emphasis on laboratory work during my degree, and being able to contribute to a research trial for my final year dissertation, means I now have the confidence to analyse trial data. At SCA NuTec, this has helped me to become involved in co-ordinating farm

trials to assess the results of new animal feed formulations. SB was a fantastic place to study. The course lecturers were always willing to explain difficult concepts further and the resources available were easily accessible and regularly updated."

Holly Newman

"I graduated in 2008 with a BSC in Animal Sciences and after travelling for a year, I decided I wanted to work in the animal feed industry, as this was the part of my degree that I had enjoyed the most. I joined the Associated British Agriculture Commercial Graduate Scheme in September 2009, initially based at Head Office in Peterborough.

AB Agri is a blue-chip international business and is the agricultural division of Associated British Foods (ABF). Sister companies of AB Agri include British Sugar, Twinings, Frontier and Primark so it is a large diversified business! AB Agri itself has many divisions, covering a broad range of the agricultural industry including businesses which specialise in compound manufacturing, co-product trading, feed ingredients production, sustainable solutions consultancy and NIR support.

I am currently in my final placement on the scheme and will be moving into a permanent position in 3 to 4 months. I have thoroughly enjoyed all 3 of my 6 month placements – my day- to –day tasks have varied greatly so to give you an idea I'll describe a typical day in each division:

ABN –visiting broiler units of the UK's largest poultry producer to advise changes to their management system in order to improve performance; compiling performance data to present to a customer in a monthly performance review; liaising with operations staff at one of the compounding mills and with nutritionists and customer services staff at head office in order to amend the diet specification on a particular load.

KW Trident - scheduling deliveries of 1000t of grains to farms for the following week with the haulier, dependent on demand according to the region's sales specialists and supply from the brewery; selling protected fat to farmers by phone after being advised by traders to cover winter requirements due to rising palm oil prices; pricing mineral mixes for farmers via suppliers; arranging the production of extra protected rumen bypass protein products due to increased demand.

AB Vista – presenting a new technical services project to the regional technical managers by conference call; arranging feed samples to be distributed worldwide to laboratories for a quality control ring test; writing trial reports for the efficacy of current enzyme products; liaising with sister company Aunir to develop the online service for evaluating corn quality.

I have also had many opportunities to attend training days, industry conferences, farm open days, industry events such and supplier visits. I also had a short placement within the Business Development team at Head Office, where I researched a potential new investment for the business, culminating in a presentation of my findings to members of the board. This was a great example of how my experiences of researching a dissertation helped me in my graduate role."

Philippa Hiegl graduated with a 2:1 in Animal Science. Upon completing her degree, Philippa's dissertation supervisor offered her a job as a trainee keeper at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey. Philippa thoroughly enjoys her work and states that she feels very privileged to have had the sound foundations laid down by the high standard of teaching that takes place at Sutton Bonington.

"I graduated from the University of Nottingham, Sutton Bonington Campus with a 2:1 in BSc. Animal Science (Hons). I was able to follow a wide variety of subjects throughout my degree and found that when it came to choosing my dissertation project my personal tutor supported my wish to collect data outside of the University. I collected data in the summer between my second and third year at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey. My dissertation project title was: "Predator Avoidance in Black Lion Tamarins."

Upon completion of my degree, my Jersey supervisor offered me a job with the Trust as a trainee keeper. My role involves working with endangered species ranging from fruit bats to tamarins, macaques to mongooses, bears to wolves and I will shortly begin working with gorillas. I am a member of about 50 keepers all specialising in different areas fighting for the common goal of conserving our most endangered animals.

One of the best things about my job is the feeling that my work is worthwhile. I am able to make a valuable contribution to an organisation and a cause that I feel strongly about.

I am faced with constant challenges and find my job fresh and exciting. With each day comes a new problem to overcome. I am thoroughly enjoying my work and feel very

privileged to have had the sound foundations laid down by the high standard of teaching that takes place at Sutton Bonington.

My advice to you all is: Go for it! Sutton Bonington gave me the support and confidence to do something unique and look at me now!"

Rachel Cutting (Ferreday)

Rachel was provided with an excellent theoretical base and the practical skills to gain a trainee clinical embryologist position at the Sheffield Fertility Centre. Rachel now heads the Embryology Team at the Centre for Reproductive Medicine and Fertility at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. As well as routine clinical embryology Rachel has lead projects such as development of the laboratories to cleanroom status to enable research embryos to be donated to the stem cell project. Rachel is quality manager for the unit and is involved in service development. She is also a member of the Association of Clinical Embryology Executive Committee, a member of the Human Fertility and Embryo Authority (HFEA) licence centre's panel and presents at National and International meetings.

Kate Braunton

Kate started working for Royal Canin and Waltham as a Customer Services Technical Advisor, as part of a team of two giving advice on the new veterinary product range. Kate dealt mainly with prescription veterinary diets and the Royal Canin life stage diets for cats and dogs, only available through vets; she thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and has recently transferred to Masterfoods where she is involved in canine nutrition research and development.

Mark Green

Mark followed up his Animal Science degree, which also included the European Certificate, with a PhD in Animal Physiology at Nottingham. He is now a Post-Doctoral research worker in the University of Missouri, USA.

Michelle Sprent

Michelle spent her European Certificate placement in IUT 'A' de Lille in Nutritional Biochemistry and the experience did wonders for her confidence in addition to being a talking point at subsequent interviews. Following an MSc, she now works as developmental animal nutritionist for a large international company. She says that a second language is sometimes useful for example in meetings when other members of the team are struggling with their English.

Lucia Tucker

Lucia undertook her placement in Madrid having learned Spanish from scratch as part of the European Certificate. On her return she was awarded a prize for the best foreign language essay in Science. On graduating she then took a place at Cambridge (2003) to read Veterinary Science to fulfil a life-long dream with 5 other Nottingham Animal Science graduates: Stuart Eves, Emma Hughes, Kate Dyke, Emma Gray and Claire Millard.

Tim Kent

Tim joined the graduate training programme of The British Horseracing Board; this was a highly competitive process and he was delighted with the outcome which should launch a successful career in various parts of the equine industry. He is now following a career as a Bloodstock Agent.

Susanna Town

Susanna (who also followed the European Certificate) studied, on graduation, for a PhD degree in Animal Science at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, investigating reproductive physiology in pigs. Her 'European' placement was at the 'Deutsches Primatum Zentrum' where she studied uterine oxytocin and progesterone receptors in the human uterus in association with the University of Gottingen. She commented that the whole experience of being totally submerged in a different culture was incredible. After the initial feeling of being rather stranded and isolated, she adapted - all in this situation have to. This was an invaluable lesson from the whole of her degree and gave her more confidence.

Philippa Thorpe

Philippa joined Effem Equine (formerly Spillers) and is a now Key Account Manager for the East of the UK. She works very closely with the Equine Studies group at Waltham and spends a fair amount of time there in the Pet Centre liaising with colleagues on scientific aspects. She is enjoying the world of work and finds the commercial sides of things exciting. Her final year project was on the Equine Rhabdomyolysis Syndrome and she presented a paper on her results at the British Equine Veterinary Association.