

In2scienceUK student Emma on her placement with BES



Name: Emma McIntyre

School: Valentine's High School

A-levels: Biology, Chemistry and English

Placement: British Ecological Society
Summer School

*“Thanks In2scienceUK – I had an amazing time teaching...along with the undergrads.” –
Melanie Jane Edgar, @agroecofarm on Twitter*

*“Thanks to the In2scienceUK placement, I am now more confident in my attitude towards
university. It's not as daunting as I used to think it would be.”*

Emma says

I'm from Valentine's High School, and I took part in the British Ecological Society summer school. I wanted to explore a career relating to science before applying to universities so I could explore all of my passions for science before deciding on what subject to specialise in.

The highlight of the British Ecological Society summer school was being able to take part in activities I had not been given the opportunity to participate in before.

I worked with undergraduate students, who explained their experiences when they were in my position of applying for universities. After talking to the undergraduates, I now feel less anxious about the whole process, and it feels much more achievable.

I acquired a lot of new skills at the summer school, too, such as learning how to take down the most important pieces of information during a lecture – I'd never sat in a lecture before! It gave me a really good idea of what to expect at university.

I'm now looking to apply to St. Andrews University.

In2scienceUK student, Mina, talks about her experience at the British Ecological Society's Summer School



Name: Mina Spurr

School: St. Dominic's Sixth Form College

A-levels: Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Mathematics

Placement: British Ecological Society Summer School

I chose In2scienceUK because I was looking for any kind of work experience related to science. I wasn't offered many opportunities, and so gladly took up the offer of a summer school with the British Ecological Society. I'm trying to explore every single avenue in relation to science before making my final decision on what to study at university, and this experience really helped me, as well as giving me confidence in the application process!

The highlight of the summer school was visiting Skomer Island, and holding the small Manx Shearwaters! I've never been exposed to wildlife like this before, and didn't think I would at this summer school. I had a great time there, and I'm so glad I chose to do this placement.

I acquired a range of new skills at the summer school, including sampling methods, statistical data collection and analysis methods in ecology. I also found the lectures really helpful, as it prepared us for university. I learnt how to take relevant and appropriate notes during the lecture, and how to apply what I learnt to experiments and research.

I'm grateful for this opportunity because I was introduced to many different avenues of science that I didn't even know existed, by speaking to the PhD students who presented their research to us. I now know I can specialise in a subject I am passionate about at university, which has completely changed my perspective on it. This placement really opened my eyes to what is out there for me to study in terms of research. I honestly would absolutely recommend this placement to anyone!