

[P14] Chemistry: the next generation: a multi-dimensional Aimhigher project tackling under representation in the chemical sciences in HE

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OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the programme will be to ensure that universities within each region collaborate on outreach activities and that local and national industries interface with these coordinated groups. The programme will draw on the considerable expertise available through the local Aimhigher networks as well as current good practice within HEIs and the considerable resources and expertise available from the RSC and industry partners.

- Visits to industrial labs to raise career aspirations
- Support for teachers in schools
- Mentoring
- Informing parents and carers
- Development of a web site and web resources for schools and colleges
- Any other innovation!

TARGETS

The targets are that 12,000 school students should be involved within the pilot period with 5% of the 13-16 age range going on to study A level chemistry and 5% of the 16-19 age range going on to higher education in the chemical sciences including HNC/D and foundation courses. Currently less than 1% of students study chemistry at HE in the UK.

HOW IS THIS BEING DONE?

- Visits by schools and colleges to HEIs to use labs and equipment
- 'Roadshows' – HEI staff to put on events for clusters of schools and colleges
- Targeted summer schools

TARGETS, OUTPUTS AND DELIVERABLES

- To provide a diverse range of chemistry outreach activities in university laboratories for approximately 3000 students per year
- To provide chemistry outreach activities for students in schools and at regional events for approximately 3500 students per year
- To provide good quality outreach activities nationally that are sustainable beyond the 2 year Aimhigher funding period
- To develop 20 – 30 new materials for national dissemination.
- To develop a chemistry outreach website www.rsc.org/outreach

- To organise two national conferences to disseminate 'good practice'

PARTNERS

Universities

Imperial College London
Kingston University
Liverpool John Moores
Loughborough University
Manchester Metropolitan University
Nottingham Trent University
University College London
University of Greenwich
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
University of Manchester
University of Nottingham

Companies

AstraZeneca
GlaxoSmithKline
Pfizer

Professional Body

Royal Society of Chemistry

Sector Skills Councils

Cogent
SEMTA

EXEMPLAR REGIONAL EVENT

During Science Week the East Midlands staged its first regional event *Chemistry: 'Hands Free and Hands-On!'* This attracted 160 students and their teachers to the EM Science Learning Centre and gave them the opportunity to explore the chemistry of mobile phones. The event involved the collaboration of all four regional HEI partners and AstraZeneca. Students began the day with an inspiring talk about the importance of chemistry in the development of mobile

phones, followed by five different practical activities. Students and their teachers participated in workshops making nanochips, using electrochromic cells, testing Graetzel cells, seeing how liquid crystals work and making green polymers.

