

Knowledge
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Graduate Case Study

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Associate Profile: Cristian Metzger

Name: Cristian Metzger
Qualifications: BSc Hons Agronomy
Current Role: Innovation Technologist, M&W Mack
Location: Paddock Wood, Kent

“KTP provided me with the opportunity to apply my knowledge in a real commercial environment.”

IN MY KTP I...

My KTP was with M&W Mack and Newcastle University. The aim was to quantify the benefits associated with storing and/or transporting high value fresh fruit in a prescribed ozone-enriched atmosphere. A test facility was used to examine the impacts of aerial ozone enrichment on microbial spoilage, cross-contamination and shelf life improvement, specifically in grapes and citrus fruit. The tests were scaled-up to trials in commercial stores and after analysing the results I was able to identify how to take the technology forward for the company.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT WERE...

The highlight for me was learning how the technology works and showing that it can be successful with foods at a commercial level. Although the tests demonstrated that the commercial application of the technology on grapes and citrus fruit was not suitable, I was able to conclude that by overcoming technical issues, such as changing packaging materials, successful use of the technology is possible.

THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A KTP ASSOCIATE IS...

The best thing about being an Associate for me is the technology transfer through collaboration between the company and university. I had access to the best academic resources and this helped considerably with the project. Although I had some training in managing staff as part of my degree, the KTP provided real experience of this and gave me the opportunity to improve my business skills. In particular, it allowed me to work with colleagues that are fully experienced in this business.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

The training opportunities provided by KTP are considerably more than those in a normal job. Because of the budget available, I was able to attend conferences and courses that were directly relevant to the project and the work I was undertaking. These included post-harvest technology courses in Spain and California. In addition, the KTP training modules provide you with the skills to succeed at a managerial level.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

I have continued to work with M&W Mack in a full time position as an innovation technologist. My role has been extended to work across all divisions of the company and to look at applying the technology used within the KTP in all fruit and vegetable storage and transportation. It is likely that we will see tangible commercial benefits resulting from the initial KTP work within the next year.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

It is ideal for people who have no significant work experience. Undertaking a degree doesn't always equip you with the skills to work in the real world. KTP provides the opportunity to use the knowledge you have gained during your studies and to apply that knowledge in a working environment, whilst presenting you with the challenges of a senior position within a company.

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