

Knowledge
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Partnerships

Graduate Case Study

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Associate Profile: Mark Saw

Name: Mark Saw
Qualifications: BSc Hons Science, PhD
Current Role: Director and Molecular Biologist, Elucedata Ltd
Location: York

“KTP has given me the confidence and skills to launch a new company and presented a wider view of what I can achieve.”

IN MY KTP I...

My KTP with Authentix Ltd and the University of York aimed to produce a product capable of detecting markers in fuel, pharmaceuticals and food. The standard industry marker uses antibodies and a lateral flow device to see these. I worked on advancing the technology to develop a marker detection system that could use non-antibody proteins suitable for use in ingestible products and which could be detected on a simple device. This provided a major opportunity for the company to expand in the pharmaceutical security and beverages markets.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROJECT WERE...

I really enjoyed the opportunity of working in two places, switching from an industrial workplace to an academic location. A PhD is very academic, so working on the KTP project was a great experience because you were learning about the end product, company goals and the impact of the project on the company. I found ownership of the project very appealing.

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

You have the chance to choose the skills you wish to develop, which gives you the opportunity to address specific areas. You are also able to undertake training that is of specific benefit to the project and company. I enjoyed meeting other Associates on the KTP residential training and discussing their projects, and how they were dealing with any problems. My Adviser was excellent in highlighting potential problems in advance and areas where I might need training to address these problems. It made me think about what I needed to know in order to progress the project smoothly.

FROM KTP I HAVE LEARNT...

KTP allows you to be aware of budget spending and how to control finances, and to be proactive in the management of the project and spot problems coming. I was able to develop my project management, leadership and negotiation skills which helped drive the project forward, and will help me in my future career.

LIFE AFTER KTP IS...

I worked at Authentix for 18 months after the KTP project had finished. Since then, I have been working as a Director and Molecular Biologist for Elucedata Ltd, a new company set up with some colleagues from the technical development department at Authentix. We will be working on new technology development ideas and opportunities that use our full skills and are more in-line with our future interests, as well as building on significant experiences gained at Authentix.

I WILL RECOMMEND KTP BECAUSE...

KTP gives you autonomy to work on a strategic project. If you're not sure what to do after university, KTP allows you to keep a foot in the door with academia while gaining experience in an industrial setting and achieving deliverables for both. You are the main channel for transferring knowledge between the university and company, and managing the collaboration and resources of both for the benefit of the project. KTP has given me the confidence and skills to launch a new company and presented a wider view of what I can achieve.

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