

20 Top tips for a graduate to get a job in the Pharmaceutical industry as a Statistician or Statistical Programmer

- 1) Ask your lecturer about a placement year within the pharmaceutical industry, during your degree.
- 2) Before graduation, take part in some relevant summer work experience.
- 3) For a statistics role, major pharmaceutical companies require at least an MSc in Medical Statistics or similar qualification.
- 4) For a programmer role, most companies require a mathematical, statistical or computing related degree.
- 5) Use the web to look for opportunities, such as registering on Allstat (www.mathstore.gla.ac.uk/allstat/introduction.asp).
- 6) Contact companies' Human Resources departments to see if there are any vacancies.
- 7) Look at pharmaceutical companies' and contract research organizations' (CRO) websites to see what they do and what jobs are available.
- 8) Use a specialist recruitment agency.
- 9) It is useful if you have contacts within the industry, so ask around and talk to people you know. Alternatively talk to your lecturer.
- 10) Submit your CV using a company's website.
- 11) Send your CV and covering letter to different companies even if a job is not advertised.
- 12) Use the PSI website (www.psiweb.org) and relevant PSI careers booklets for information on recruitment.
- 13) Use your careers centre to obtain advice about good interview practice.
- 14) Research – This will save a lot of time and you will be prepared and knowledgeable at an interview. This will make you stand out from other candidates. Have a clear understanding of what a CRO and a pharmaceutical company actually do.
- 15) The more flexible you are about the job location the more options will be available.
- 16) Join the PSI and RSS membership and you will receive monthly information on current job vacancies.
- 17) Attend Open Days, company presentations, PSI talks at Universities and other PSI events.
- 18) Ask your careers advisor to contact PSI about arranging a careers talk if there is not already one.
- 19) Email the PSI careers website: careers@psiweb.org.
- 20) Brush up on your soft skills in preparation for an interview.