

Declan Morris

Personal Statement

I am a University of York chemistry graduate (MChem – 2.1) who spent a year in an industry research team with DSM in Geleen, The Netherlands. After graduation I spent a year in China at the Chinese Academy of Sciences to conduct a research project. Upon my return York I started work at a software company as a business analyst. I am currently looking for a graduate role which I can use my problem solving ability and attention to detail which has been developed in my studies.

Skills

Project Management:

- Managed my own research project on anti-icing
- Managed my masters research project on decomposition of cyclohexyl hydroperoxide while on industry placement
- Acted as group leader on process development that involved optimization of synthesis of esomeprazole in 3rd year project
- Managed a product backlog of ~ 800 enhancements

Analysis and Problem Solving:

- Analysis of complex chemical system involving 20+ interacting reactants and products
- Gained expertise in a wide variety of chemical analytical methods
- Researched into unknown areas encountering numerous problems that require overcoming for work to continue
- Read and summarised literature to present and use as input for experiments

Data analysis and interpretation:

- Interpreted various analysis to understand impact on reaction under investigation (decomposition of cyclohexyl hydroperoxide) including:
 - Mass flow in and out
 - Compounds identified by GC
 - Elemental analysis
 - Water and hydroxide content

Communication and Presentation skills:

- Worked in, and adapted to two different international environments (China and The Netherlands)
- Public Speaking
 - Spoke to over 1000 students and teachers at University Chinese Academy of Sciences opening ceremony
 - Spoke in front of around 100 students and teachers at the Insitute of Chemistry opening ceremony
- Presented project updates on a weekly basis to colleagues at DSM
- Authored several project reports for both education and industrial audiences
- Translated between students and university staff to resolve student issues (EN ⇔ CN)
- Communicated with customers to find their needs and the best way to implement product changes

Education

Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences

PhD Candidate

Beijing, China

2014 – 2015

Department of Chemistry, The University of York

Master of Chemistry with a Year in Industry, 2:1 Honours Degree

York, England

2010 – 2014

A Level		As Level	
Chemistry	A	Computing	C
Maths	A	General Studies	C
Biology	B		

Work Experience

StarCompliance

Business Analyst

York, England

2016 – Present

Managed product enhancements to ensure that features are prioritised and achievable within product sprints. Created a new workflow which involved meeting with chief business officers to get an understanding of their needs. A Perl script I wrote would automatically scan over all product backlog enhancements (~ 800) and based on a criteria set assign each a score so that the chief business officers could look over only the top items identified. I constantly delivered software specifications including detailed requirements and state diagrams. I collaborated with developers, quality assurance, and client teams to gather research and functionality requirements.

Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences

PhD Candidate

Beijing, China

2014 – 2015

Lived and studied in Beijing for just over one year. Explored a variety anti-icing techniques with a focus on graphene and its derivatives being used to affect ice growth in solution. Studying in China also gave me the opportunity study Chinese in my free time, I thus reached a conversational level. I decided to leave for personal reasons, however it was still a valuable experience that allowed me to improve my scientific and language skills.

DSM

Intern Associate Scientist

Geleen, The Netherlands

2013 – 2014

As an MChem student I decided to undertake a placement year in industry at DSM. The project was to develop a kinetic model for the decomposition of cyclohexyl hydroperoxide. This placement gave me valuable experience in working within the chemical industry and prepared me for further work in a similar setting.

Go Outdoors

Retail Assistant

York, England

2012 – 2013

Working as a retail assistant involved me interacting with customers, which improved my communication skills. It also improved my time management as I worked alongside my university studies.

Positions of Responsibility

2014 – 2015: *International Student Representative*

I was the student representative for all international students at my university in China. Using language skills I also helped communicate student problems with the campus managers

2011 – 2012: *Committee Member – York University Mountaineering Society*

Organised outdoor rock climbing trips around England, Scotland and Wales. Taught new members how to climb in a safe and responsible manner, and enabled me to improve on my leadership and teaching abilities.

2011 – 2012: *Mentor for First Year Students*

As a mentor I assisted them in integrating, and provided a first contact person for any problems they may have.

Languages

English: Fluent

Mother tongue

Mandarin Chinese: Conversational

HSK 5 Certified

Perl 5: Basic

SQL Server: Basic

References

References are available on request