

Quotes from reports by participants of the computer-based summer vacation studentships in 2021

“This course has been a great baseline for getting into bioinformatics and has made me more comfortable with programming languages that I will undoubtedly use more often with my practical data when pursuing my masters in biochemistry as well.”

“I learned that keeping track of the progress made in improving and gaining skills such as resilience, self-directed study, problem solving and knowing how to highlight these to employers can put you in a great position.”

“Having an understanding of coding structures meant that I could start to see similarities between the code in R and Python and in the future will help me if I need to learn a new coding language.”

“The webinar series helped me to understand how to articulate my skills, developed during this studentship and in other activities/projects. This will undoubtedly aid me in preparation for applications and interviews for PhD programmes and future jobs.”

“After the studentship, I now feel a lot more confident working with computers for analysis, as now I have knowledge of how to use coding to analyse different types of data. This studentship has shown me that I am capable of analysing data with computers which I didn't think I could before”

“I now have a greater awareness of the diversity of pathways into the workplace that somebody with a biochemistry background can take, filling me with optimism for the future.”

“The Summer Vacation Studentship has been a great tool to further my knowledge and understanding of using programming languages in biochemical settings, all while developing skills that will help my employability.”

“By undertaking the coding courses and webinars, I also learnt that coding can be used for a wide variety of occupations and jobs, not just for specific business and technological careers as is often the impression.”

“I believe that coding is something many young people may see as intimidating or unachievable, and this course has opened my eye to how applicable coding is and how easily accessible it can be. This could be something I use to inspire students and show them how achievable science can be.”

“The second webinar really opened my eyes to the different careers that I could have based on my degree, a lot of which would not necessarily be obvious.”

“Gaining a foundational understanding of data analysis this summer has greatly contributed to my professional development, as it has taught me an organised and logical approach to

problem solving that is applicable, not only to data analysis, but also to a wide variety of professional uses”

“I feel this course has enhanced my problem-solving skills the most as there were often times in which a line of code didn’t appear to be working, which would require me to go back over the code (or the original piece of data itself) to see how the problem may have occurred.”

“I developed resilience as well as my problem-solving skills; these skills are key personally and regardless of which job I chose.”

“It has also helped with my confidence regarding coding, which often seems intimidating, and this course has tackled that existing apprehension making me realise I am capable of understanding and using the code and should not be intimidated.”

“The webinars discussing transferrable skills and the number of different jobs available in the STEM field has opened my eyes and widened my horizons. I feel more comfortable now putting down that I can use R and Python to carry out statistical analysis on my CV, and I do think it will open up more opportunities for me and help me perform tasks better in whatever research position (I hope) I will find myself in, in the future.”

“I hope to build on the knowledge I have gained for data analysis using both software as I go on to pursue a PhD and a career in bioinformatics research.”

“Another skill I developed, was data presentation, for the duration of the course I really had to think about which format was best for the data to be easily interpreted.”