

NE712 Linking STEM curriculum learning to careers

Approaching employers and alumni

Transcript of [audio interview](#) with Alison, FE lecturer in science.

Alison: I teach in a BTec programme, or programmes. And the curriculum that I deliver is all vocational. So a science is always taught in a context, and I am so painfully aware that our students perhaps do not know very much about the kind of careers that are available to them out in the big, wide world. So when they come to us, they see science as biology, chemistry, and physics.

And they are very unaware of the fact that as soon as they kind of step out of the school or college environment, science diversifies on a massive scale. And there's so much that they can do. I want to give them a choice, really, when they come to look at their career path, when they're choosing courses at university, or looking at apprenticeships, or looking at jobs. So they don't really have a very narrow field.

They don't just plump for chemistry at university. They could look at something very vocational. So for instance, when I think of students from my tutor from last year, I had one student that went off to look at how to design medical appliances or prosthetic limbs. It was wonderful, it's such a kind of unusual choice of career. And I have other students that have been really heavily influenced by speakers that have come in.

They've not considered the subject before, and then they thought yes, I might like to do that. And of course, I've had students that have followed my career path. I've had a lot of students that have gone on to study biochemistry. They are very influenced, I think, by the people that they meet. More so than you can, or perhaps than I can ever really fathom.

I try and keep in touch with as many students as possible. It's not possible on social media why they're with you. But once they've gone, I've kind of connected

to quite a few via LinkedIn, which I find incredibly useful. And I have a few on Twitter. I've been trying to stay away from Facebook where possible. But LinkedIn is really good.

And I've seen quite a few of my students over the years gone into different career path. So for instance, this year I've had one students that's become a biomedical science trainee in the NHS after completing her degree. I've got students. One student is doing a masters in cancer biology and next month I have one of my older students who is completing a PhD in biochemistry down at the local university.

And then he's going to come back in and actually talk about his career path, and his career journey. And I know that you will be an excellent role model, because he worked hard through his BTec, did his degree in a local university, did lots of the right kind of job experience, work experience. And he's really built a career profile for quite an early age as a student, and that's really paid dividends.