Three ideas

Paul McLaughlin – Biological Sciences

Programme Director M.Sc Next Generation Drug Discovery

Here they are!

- OU Wiki – complete
- Video Submission and Feedback
- Overarching portfolio

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Latest edits: S[redacted]mber 2015, 10:52 AM (Paul McLaughlin); Sunday, 1 November 2015, 2:31 PM [redacted] Sunday, 1 November 2015, 2:12 PM [redacted] full history

Induction Edit section

Paul McLaughlin

Overall competently done and well-written. The Bibliographic part could have been more deeply researched. Summaries should be of the take-home messages, not just an inventory of the sections covered.

Welcome to this induction material. The movie below gives a feeling for why we are excited about what we do and what you should look for in your professional development.

Insert the best movie here. Write a caption. Leave a comment on why you chose it

Changes in drug discovery from mechanistic and robotic to biology.

This movie explains that drug discovery is changing. High-throughput screening was the major way to find new drugs ten years ago, but it is not necessarily efficient. As diseases that are targets for finding drugs are often very complicated, people with various disciplines are needed for drug discovery. For example, clinicians and biologists who deeply understand diseases, as well as chemists, biophysicists and physiologists are needed. In other words, this movie tells that those who want to work in drug discovery need to be able to collaborate with people with various disciplines.

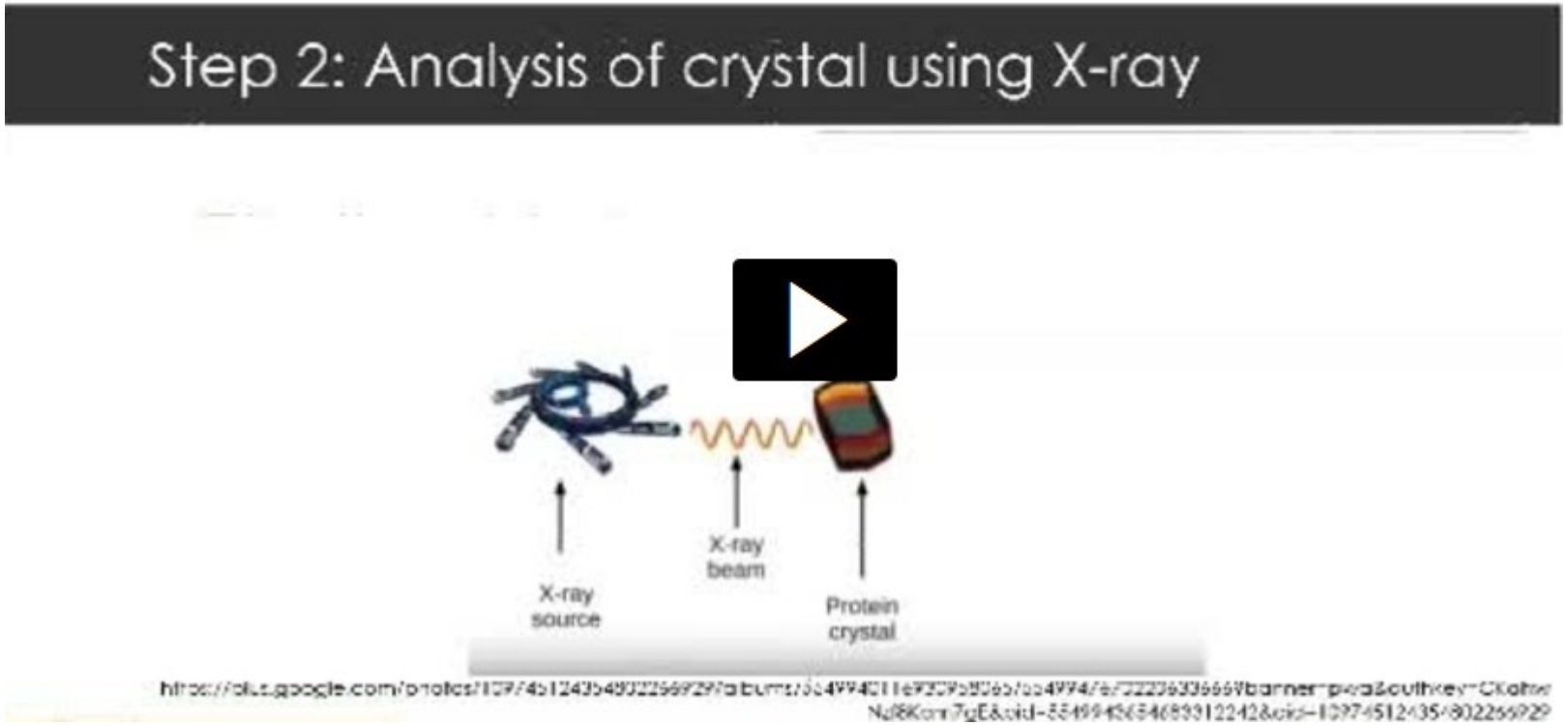
Paul McLaughlin

Well written. Improvements would be to contrast him with the others to show that you choose unique points that he made. Also it would have been good to bring out what was "exciting" about what he said.

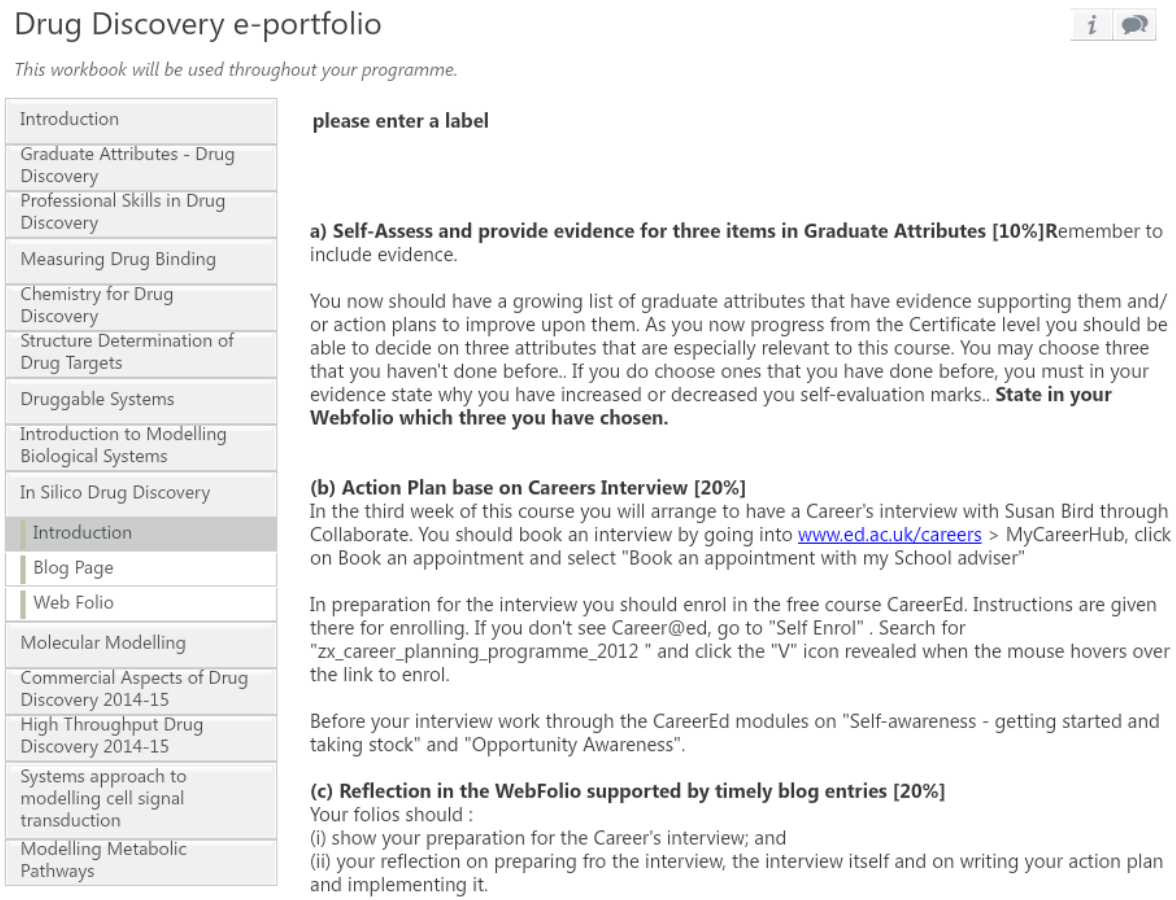
The industry faces large challenges, though. Here are some references to put this in context.

Video Submission

- https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/Illustration+-+Feedback/1_qe7anwfb



Overarching portfolio



Drug Discovery e-portfolio

This workbook will be used throughout your programme.

- Introduction
- Graduate Attributes - Drug Discovery
- Professional Skills in Drug Discovery
- Measuring Drug Binding
- Chemistry for Drug Discovery
- Structure Determination of Drug Targets
- Druggable Systems
- Introduction to Modelling Biological Systems
- In Silico Drug Discovery
  - Introduction
  - Blog Page
  - Web Folio
- Molecular Modelling
- Commercial Aspects of Drug Discovery 2014-15
- High Throughput Drug Discovery 2014-15
- Systems approach to modelling cell signal transduction
- Modelling Metabolic Pathways

please enter a label

a) Self-Assess and provide evidence for three items in Graduate Attributes [10%]Remember to include evidence.

You now should have a growing list of graduate attributes that have evidence supporting them and/ or action plans to improve upon them. As you now progress from the Certificate level you should be able to decide on three attributes that are especially relevant to this course. You may choose three that you haven't done before.. If you do choose ones that you have done before, you must in your evidence state why you have increased or decreased you self-evaluation marks.. **State in your Webfolio which three you have chosen.**

(b) Action Plan base on Careers Interview [20%]
In the third week of this course you will arrange to have a Career's interview with Susan Bird through Collaborate. You should book an interview by going into www.ed.ac.uk/careers > MyCareerHub, click on Book an appointment and select "Book an appointment with my School adviser"

In preparation for the interview you should enrol in the free course CareerEd. Instructions are given there for enrolling. If you don't see Career@ed, go to "Self Enrol" . Search for "zx_career_planning_programme_2012 " and click the "V" icon revealed when the mouse hovers over the link to enrol.

Before your interview work through the CareerEd modules on "Self-awareness - getting started and taking stock" and "Opportunity Awareness".

(c) Reflection in the WebFolio supported by timely blog entries [20%]
Your folios should :
(i) show your preparation for the Career's interview; and
(ii) your reflection on preparing fro the interview, the interview itself and on writing your action plan and implementing it.

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Graduate Attributes - Drug Discovery

Personal and Intellectual Independence

Being Effective

Communication

Research and Enquiry

Professional Skills in Drug Discovery

Measuring Drug Binding

Chemistry for Drug Discovery

Structure Determination of Drug Targets

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Research and enquiry

There are a whole range of skills and abilities that contribute to your academic success. Part of being a student is learning about existing knowledge, but it is just as important to develop skills in enquiry and research, and to contribute your own ideas. Remember that the attributes listed sometimes overlap a little and some may partly depend on others.

Below are skills and abilities relevant to this area that might be developed during your time at University - this is not an exhaustive list, but a useful starting point for your reflections and seeing what progress you're making.

Currently, how confident or able are you at...

Absorbing information and concentrating for long periods?

Can you receive information and concentrate for long periods or do you tend to daydream or switch off? In lectures are you able to maintain your concentration and absorb what is being said?

not at all 1 2 **3** 4 very confident

1

Using appropriate methods to find texts?

Can you use the library catalogue and then find the book on the shelf? Do you know which online database(s) are useful for your subject? Do you look for paper and digital texts in the same way?

not at all 1 **2** 3 4 very confident

0

Absorbing academic or professional texts?

How well do you understand or absorb the kinds of text you will read during your studies e.g. text books, journals, online material?

not at all 1 2 **3** 4 very confident

3

Analysing and summarising text?

Can you identify what's most important, highlighting the key points of an argument, understanding these and being able to summarise a long article?

not at all 1 2 **3** 4 very confident

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short description

6th November 2014: Pebblepad hand in, looking back

Today I am handing in my Pebblepad work. The other work was really frustrating. In summary I feel like I had got to the point of getting all the data at the point where I actually had the hand the work in. And if the same situation were to arise again in the future, I'm not sure how I would do it any differently to have more time for actually analysing the data. All the problems seemed to be technical ones, which took time waiting for an answer to get anything more done.

I guess what I could do is next time, look ahead at the work to be done more thoroughly (presuming it is on Moodle) and try to tell whether it is going to be rife with technical difficulties. Although it was the kind of work where you just get stuck at each point and can't move on. I could try though.

It is the new software really that took so much time, rather than the actual work. Although I know it is part of this MSc to learn how to install software, the software was never working at all as it should. Having to use UWIN at first on my old laptop took a lot of time up, and then having to learn how to use UWIN which was a completely new concept for me.

I don't feel like I got to apply the theory to the data I got, because there wasn't time.

Posted [redacted] t 12:07 on 06 November 2014 0 comments

4th November: Writing & Implementing Action Plan

Today I have written out my action plan. Although I'm only just writing it out, I have been implementing some of the steps already - I've just not had time to write it down.

My action plan is going to be on finding out about the possibilities of working within drug discovery, and in particular on remote working possibilities. I was kind of thinking I should go at it from a technical writing/report writing perspective, but actually I would like to find out all the options. Currently I don't even know if there is a culture of remote working within drug discovery, but with all the work we do remotely for this MSc I don't really see why there couldn't be.

So far I've been looking at websites and finding out more about medical writing in general, again I didn't really know there were so many different kinds of writing work relating to science out there. It was good to have the careers interview and realise that actually, it is fine to want to do remote work. The issue is

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Systems approach to

My **action plan** can be found here.

The three **graduate attributes** I have self-assessed and provided evidence for are:
- Asking questions when you don't understand
- Responding effectively to unfamiliarity
- Appreciating and using your talents to positive effect

A wefolio reflecting on preparation for and results of a careers interview

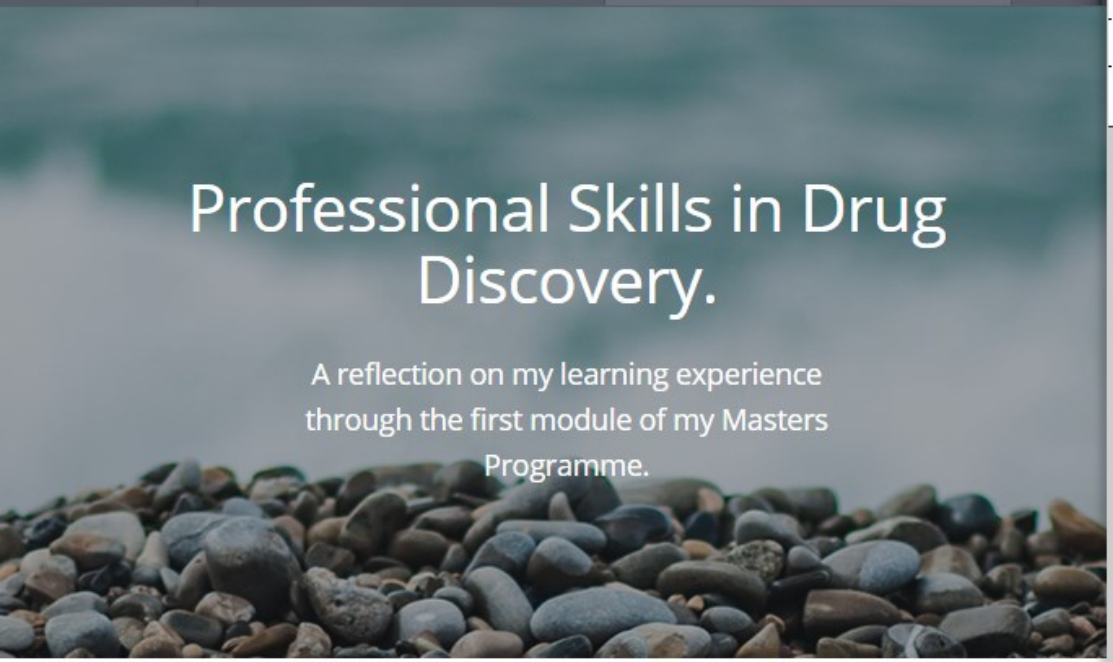
During this module I have had a careers interview with Susan Bird, before which I had to do some preparation work and after which I had to write an action plan. The experience has really made me think about what I want to do, and the kind of way I should be thinking about my skill set and what I have to offer.

Although I've spent a lot of time during the last year considering what I want to do in the future, and after this MSc, the careers session helped me consolidate my ideas. I suppose the best way to describe the change in thought process is that before the interview I thought the fact that I wanted to work remotely was something that I would have to squash – something which I shouldn't really talk about, or which made me seem like I wasn't committed enough to do a 'proper job'.

Now I realise that actually I should see it in a positive light, that I have skills in that area, and that because it is something I want to do, I will be much better at it. I have worked more on this MSc than I did during my undergraduate degree. In some ways I always felt trapped by my undergraduate degree, because I had to be in Edinburgh when for reasons outside of the course it would have been beneficial for me to be able to travel. I don't feel that way on this course, and therefore I put more work in and am happy doing so. Ultimately that results in me learning more, being a more integral part of the course (being present), and in a better result in terms of the work I produce.

Before the interview

Before the interview we were asked to complete some work on Learn. This involved thinking about your past and how you had made decisions to get to where you are today. In some ways I have had an unconventional journey to get to where I am. Although the tasks didn't make me think about anything



Professional Skills in Drug Discovery.

A reflection on my learning experience through the first module of my Masters Programme.

A reflection on my learning experience through the first module of my Masters Programme.

I have reached the end of the first module in the Drug Discovery Programme, hopefully the first step on my way to achieving a MSc. Here I will attempt to summarize my feelings on the course so far while also document important lessons learned over the past 6 weeks or so and hopeful gain more insight into my future goals and expectations within the course and industry as a whole.

There are 4 feedback items

Graded: PSDD_34	18th Nov 2016 22:00
Approval Level One	23rd Nov 2016 17:49
Approval Level Two	23rd Nov 2016 18:04

Feedback comment 18th Nov 2016 22:00

Paul McLaughlin

Feedback

(1) Assessing your self against three graduate attributes in your "Graduate Attributes" Workbook, namely:

(a) Communicating Confidently with people you don't know

It would in all instances be better to think about your experiences on this course.

Bring other information in, but only in relation to a contrast with this course.

(b) Organising your personal and academic life

As above.

(c) Responding effectively to unfamiliarity [15%]

Yes, this is excellent. You talked about this course, linked it to mature reflection on your opportunities and threats and I liked the link to a blog item. An improvement would be to record more about your experiences at the start of the course and how you handled the unfamiliarity; and when - if at all- did it start to get better. A number of "stories" like this recorded in the Portfolio will start to let you see themes and to realise more how you best make progress.

(2) Keep a blog throughout the course of what you do each day and your reflections upon these activities.

1. Reflective writing about your thought processes and activities provides valuable perspective and accelerates personal development.

I have often struggled with elements of this course, and have just as often used my blog to vent my frustrations. Several times when this has happened, I get a breakthrough, and my next (much more cheerful) post will be description of how that occurred. It's actually been very satisfying to be able to go back to those blog posts and see how I managed to figure things out. I also found it very helpful to think about my strengths and weaknesses and make action plans to address the latter. Graduate attributes have been a challenge, but they really forced me to think about my skills and how I can improve them. The positive impact of reflective writing has been very strong in my professional life, as I've transferred the improvements I made from my studies to my work. I will try to keep up a blog in future whenever I find myself needing a push forward.

I was definitely a bit sceptical about the reflective aspect at the start, but… it probably has been the part of the programme that will give me the most benefit, long after I've forgotten everything about Unix and crystal structures!