

## **Accreditation Conference: Striving for Excellence 2018**

For the first time this year (2018), the Royal Society of Biology (RSB) brought together university representatives and industry employers from around the country to discuss best practice in higher education. Key stakeholders were able to input directly into the Accreditation Quinquennial Review via roundtable discussion. This review ensures that the Accreditation Learning Outcomes continue to be fit for purpose and importantly gives the community the opportunity to influence the criteria used to assess future applications and renewals.

The conference was attended by representatives from 45 universities (accredited and non-accredited) and industry employers (including CamBioScience, Covance, Ivotech Ltd and MedImmune) from around the UK. The day included talks on the history of Accreditation, best practice in the biosciences, including identified best practice presentations from accredited universities, and a criteria review workshop. The criteria review workshop focused on two out of the six overarching accreditation criteria: the capstone project and creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. The outcomes from the roundtable discussions were reported back to the Accreditation Committee and were used to support discussions around the revision of the criteria.

### **Future plans: Accreditation Conference 2019**

Due to the success of our inaugural conference, the Accreditation Conference will be returning on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (Central London, location TBC). Once again, the conference will continue to provide a platform for sharing best practice in higher education, provide opportunities to network with university and industry representatives and to participate in roundtable discussions on relevant topics within the biosciences. We welcome all higher education institutions, bioscience employers and key stakeholders to attend.

The agenda for the Accreditation Conference 2019 has yet to be confirmed, however, it is likely to follow a similar schedule to the Accreditation Conference 2018.

The conference also provides a great opportunity to speak with Accreditation Committee members and the RSB Accreditation Team if you have any questions surrounding Accreditation or indeed, if you are considering applying for Accreditation in the future.