

Benefits of Foundation Degree Accreditation

There are a number of benefits to both HEIs and students/graduates:

1. Foundation Degree Accreditation for HEIs

Recognition of academic quality

Accreditation provides a mark of 'good practice' allowing a wide ranging comparability among high performing institutions, as well as providing an assurance to employers that graduates have appropriate skills and knowledge (therefore increasing graduate competitiveness in the global jobs market).

Enhanced recruitment opportunities

Potential students have the confidence in knowing they will study a course that meets a set of criteria determined by bioscience professionals independent of the HEI. Accreditation was informed by the needs of employers and developed in collaboration with experts from industry. Employers recognise the value of accredited degree programmes and the graduates they produce.

An external review of programmes and a mechanism to drive change within an institution

The process of Accreditation not only assesses programmes but also shares and highlights good practice. As part of the application process, your programme(s) will be assessed by senior academics who may suggest improvements to the programme, as well as highlight existing areas of excellence. As such, institutions that have undergone an assessment have highlighted the process of accreditation as being extremely beneficial in its own right.

Publicity following successful Accreditation

You will be entitled to use the Royal Society of Biology Logo and associated literature to advertise that your programme(s) is accredited (online and in printed literature). The RSB will advertise your institution as accredited on our website, which is viewed by prospective students looking to study a bioscience foundation degree programme. You will be able to quote aspects of good practice highlighted during the visit on your website and at open days.

“ We were very excited to be involved in the accreditation process for our foundation degree programme and then to be awarded accreditation status. We wanted to have the recognition for our graduates and improve their employability as well as have an opportunity to both identify what we do well and to drive forward change for how we could improve the programme. The process was rigorous but enjoyable and extremely rewarding for the whole programme team and the students involved. Accreditation really took into account the unique aspects to degree level bioscience teaching in our HEI. We have made some changes to the programme following accreditation that will really enhance what we do to prepare our students for their continuing careers. ”

Luke Peakman, Programme Manager and Lecturer,
South Devon College

2. Foundation Degree Accreditation for Students and Graduates

Greater employability prospects and enhanced competitiveness in a crowded global jobs market

The accreditation programme establishes a profile of key skills that bioscience employers can recognise in graduates from accredited degree programmes. Many employers use evidence-based recruitment processes, graduates will have evidence of education, training and assessment in many key subject-specific skills (e.g. as provided to the RSB by Learned Societies) and transferable skills.

Professional body accreditation of their degree

Stands out to employers, shows that degrees have been assessed and enhanced by the accreditation process, and provides additional evidence of graduates knowledge and skills.

Free membership to the RSB

Students studying on accredited foundation degree programmes will receive one year free membership of the Royal Society of Biology at Affiliate level during the final year of their degree. This will expose students to a significant network of bioscience professionals, stay up-to date with biology related developments (e.g. via the free weekly bulletin of key discoveries and initiatives and policies worldwide). This is extremely beneficial to students particularly at a time when they are applying for their first employment. Membership of the Society gives students and graduates a feeling of belonging to a wide community of biologists, interested in biology for its own sake but also to contribute their knowledge and skills to help meet world challenges.

Professional Registers

The criteria for Foundation Degree Accreditation closely align with the attributes required for Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) and Registered Scientist (RSci). Graduates from an accredited foundation degree programme are able to obtain external professional recognition of their skills, knowledge and expertise, and commitment to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) from the Royal Society of Biology.