

SPOILT FOR CHOICE

CLAUDIA FLAVELL-WHILE WELCOMES YOU TO THE INAUGURAL GRADUATE SUPPLEMENT – HELPING YOU ALONG THE PATH TO YOUR COMING CAREER

Hello and welcome to *tce*'s 2012 graduate supplement.

If you're a chemical engineering student and reading this, chances are you found *tce* waiting for you stuffed in your university pigeon hole, or sitting on the doormat in your student flat under a pile of much less exciting post as you returned to university for the new academic year.

In other subject areas, this would be far too early to be thinking about what to do after graduation (as a non-chemical engineer, I barely gave the question any thought until I'd finished my exams!) but chemical engineering is different. Already companies are gearing up for the annual autumn 'milkround' of visiting universities and telling prospective graduates all about the wonderful opportunities they have to offer.

At *tce*, we thought we'd do our bit with some more general advice and information. For starters, while the traditional chemical engineering heartland of oil, gas and petrochemicals remains an obvious choice for many university leavers (and having seen the salaries they sometimes pay, who could blame them?), employers in other sectors are eager to point out that they too have a lot to offer in terms of chemical engineering careers. From water treatment to food production and from industrial gases to mining and minerals – there's a world of opportunity out there beyond the oil industry.

Mining in particular is a booming sector and one that chemical engineers don't necessarily think of first. In our article on p2, a veteran of the mining industry spells out what chemical engineers have to offer.

Another thing to consider is whether to go and work for a large or a small company. Both have their pros and cons; large companies may offer more structured training and a more clear-cut path for promotions, but while working a small company can be a daunting prospect – especially when you're the only chemical engineer – the breadth of experience and lack of corporate red tape they can offer is not easily matched by the multinationals, as one recent graduate working for a start-up explains on p8.

Industrial placements offer a perfect opportunity to experience different companies and industries while still at university, while gaining invaluable practical experience, and few chemical engineers would be fool enough to pass up the chance. In our report on p4, three students share their experience, and give advice on what to do if your degree

course doesn't come with pre-planned placements.

We've also taken on board some feedback that *tce* should do more to assist recent and upcoming graduates with the all-important jobhunt. This year we've taken our first-ever stab at compiling a directory of potential employers, giving you all the information on the companies operating in the various sectors, what they do, where they do it, what they're looking for in potential recruits, not to forget who to apply to and how.

We've started off by including companies and sites that are accredited under IChemE's Accredited Company Training Scheme but future issues will be open to all.

As it's our first attempt, we'd like to know what you think of it – does it contain the right data? Are there any other pieces of information you'd like to see? Is it structured in a way that's easy to use? We'll be sending round a questionnaire shortly but if you'd like to jump the queue for the feedback, the address is: www.icheme.org/graduate_supplement_survey

Finally, we're following up the information in this graduate supplement with a webinar that will give students an overview of some of the industry sectors that employ chemical engineers. We've lined up a great panel of chemical engineers working in food, contracting, mining, oil and gas, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. They'll give you an idea of what kind of work and projects chemical engineers can expect to get involved in with the various sectors, what kind of skills they'll need, and, most importantly, they'll be standing by to answer all your questions.

As we're going to print we're still finalising the date of the webinar but we expect that it will take place in early October sometime. Check www.tcetoday.com/webinars for more information and to sign up.

Looking forward to seeing you then!

CLAUDIA FLAVELL-WHILE (CLAUDIA@ICHEME.ORG)

CONTENTS

WHY MINING?.....	P2
INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENTS.....	P4
THINK SMALL.....	P8
COMPANY DIRECTORY.....	P9

