

Name: Yalinu Poya

Study: PhD in Chemistry, Heterogeneous Catalysis

University: School of Chemistry, University of Glasgow

Review:

I was privileged to attend the Afternoon of Science and Careers on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at the University of Aberdeen. The event had a massive turn out with undergraduate and post graduate science students in attendance. Industrial experts and SCI committee members were also in attendance too and it was nice to meet the executives. The meeting lasted for five hours with talks spread in between three sessions, during the meeting lunch was provided and coffee during breaks which was very kind of the organizers.

The meeting in general was well organized with an interesting line-up of presentations showing different career opportunities by successful scientists. Talks were presented by experts from three general themes: industry, business and academic. Industrial talks were done by representatives from large oil and gas companies and the pharmaceutical sector. Business presentations were made by scientists who start up their own companies, and a scientist turned into a patent attorney, which was quite interesting to me. Academic talks were based on research in chemistry and marine biology, these talks were not only about the details of how was research conducted by thoroughly explained on why it was conducted and how their research impacts society, and how the findings of their research can contribute to changing some of the threats experienced in our environment.

This was my first SCI Scotland networking event and it made a huge impact on me as a researcher and early-career scientist. From this event I know that as a scientist I should not limit myself to opportunities that I think are only available to me as personally I thought being an academic was my major option. Through this event I have discovered that there are many options out there that I can venture into for my career after my PhD. I look forward to attending the next event and I would highly recommend it to others as well.