

## **'Micro' experience uncovers big opportunities**

Lydia undertook a Life Science Work Experience on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Below is her feedback on her time within Oxford University Hospital Laboratories.

*"My work experience within the Oxford University Hospital Laboratories was excellent. When I first emailed individual departments such as Microbiology and Immunology enquiring about work experience I was informed about the NHS Life Sciences Work Experience Programme; a four day placement giving students the opportunity to spend time in a variety of departments.*

*I applied for the placement through the Voluntary Services Department and when told my application was successful, further arrangements were made and I was able to choose a suitable week to carry out my placement in.*

*During the placement I spent about half a day in each of the departments, such as Microbiology, Histology, Serology, Biochemistry, Genetics and Immunology. Upon arrival to each department I was given a tour and overview of what they do in that lab. I was then given the chance to spend some time shadowing the various staff members in the labs, which gave me a real insight into the variety of work carried out in the hospital laboratories and also, most importantly, how their work impacts the lives of patients.*

*One of the most interesting aspects of the placement was that I was able to follow a process from start to finish. For example, in Histology I saw the patients' tissue samples arrive in the lab and was then able to follow the process all the way until the sample had been moulded in wax and sliced thinly to create a microscope slide to be examined by a scientist. This made it much easier to understand the purpose behind what they were doing. Overall, I found the four days very informative and thoroughly enjoyable."*