

# Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Operations

## WORK PLACEMENT TESTIMONIALS



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*David Kerr recognising the expanding sector of the biopharma industry in Cork, realised that this was an area that would lead to more secure employment.*

“Even though I had transferable skills from working as a marine engineer, I had no knowledge or experience of the biopharma industry and as a result, I decided to undertake this course.

I found the course challenging, however, it was a very **informative** and a **practical based course**. I particularly enjoyed my work placement in **Merck Sharpe and Dome (MSD)** in Brinny, Co. Cork where I was part of the Integrated Process Team. The Brinny site is MSD’s centre of excellence for the manufacturing and quality assurance of its biotechnology based pharmaceutical products. The course content was beneficial in **equipping me with the core skills** for the pharma industry and the work placement provided the **essential industrial experience**.”



*Ray McQuirk, the Associate Director of Technical Services and Engineering, who was David’s supervisor, said that “David, from the outset, was very eager to learn as much about the business we conduct at MSD Brinny.*

David was part of the production team, observing the process train from protein purification to the final drug product manufacturing stage. He was involved in a number of continuous improvement projects and he also brought a lot of his own engineering background to the projects. David was a pleasure to have in our business and he really took advantage of the opportunity,” Feedback from Ray was that the programme encompasses the relevant modules and skills that will give students the **advantage to secure employment in the biopharma sector**.



*Thomas Quinn, an Environmental Scientist, worked for over 13 years in the environmental and construction sectors.*

“With the collapse of the construction industry, it was proving difficult to get **“my foot in the door”** with the limited experience I had in the healthcare industry. The diploma course was exactly what I needed to make the transition. My placement was in **Tornier Orthopedics** who are a global medical device company based in Macroon, Co. Cork.



There, I worked as a **Quality Engineer**, a team member in the Quality Affairs Team. I gained experience in validating engineering processes. With this experience and after completing the course, I was successful in obtaining a new role as a Quality Engineer in Sanmina, Fermoy, Co. Cork. I believe the course and placement has added **tremendous value** to my skill set.”



*Anthony Cantwell was involved in transport and logistics for many years as a service provider to the pharma industry. He decided to undertake the Diploma course to help him focus on working in the pharma industry.*

“The course gave me a good platform to work with the different departments in **Rowa Pharmaceuticals**, where I obtained by work placement. Rowa Pharmaceuticals are a leading generic company in Ireland based in Bantry, Co. Cork.



Since my work experience finished, I have been offered further employment with the company. The course armed me with a dictionary of **terminology** and a good appreciation of the **day-to-day** occurrences within a highly **regulated environment**.”



*Joe Keane, Operations Manager in Rowa Pharmaceuticals, says that “Anthony arrived with a focused mind-set coupled with very good business skills and a positive outlook to work.*

He produced a **high level of output** in both quantity and quality during his time here in Rowa. Anthony’s **commitment** to his position reverberated throughout the company and formed an example for other members of staff. He has been superb to work. He presented himself well, was eager, precise and keen to learn. He **engaged** on all tasks and responsibilities to broaden his knowledge and experience. His contribution to the **day-to-day operations** of the business cannot be over emphasised. He was very comfortable with all the members of staff and we were very happy to have him here with us.”

***Cork Institute of Technology work placement coordinators, Dr Caroline O’Sullivan and Mary Quirke try to best fit the students’ expertise to the need of the company.***

The translatable skills that these mature students possess would enhance the skill base of the healthcare companies and the students would gain valuable work experience that would definitely help them attain their goal towards sustained employment. Typical work placement roles include those in **Quality, Validation, Technical Support, Facilities, Maintenance and Environmental Health and Safety**.

Students from these programmes are available for work placement in June.

# Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Operations

Cork Institute of Technology offers a number of springboard courses in **Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Operations**: a Higher Certificate (Level 6) and a Diploma Certificate (Level 7). These programmes are available for individuals who are seeking to **up-skill** or **cross-skill** in order to gain **sustainable** employment in sectors such as Biopharmaceutical, Pharmaceutical and Medical Device industries. The students undertaking these courses gain practical skills and knowledge pertinent to working within these highly regulated fields. Topics covered includes **GMP, Quality, Validation Science, Lean Manufacturing, Process Transfer, Upstream and Downstream Processing**. Integral elements of these one year programmes are that the students undertake a work placement and also, a two day training course in the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT).

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## Further Information

Course Information is available at [www.cit.ie/springboard](http://www.cit.ie/springboard)

## Enquiries

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