

Postgraduate Education Programmes in Chemoinformatics

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The increasing use of computational techniques in drug- and pesticide-discovery programmes has led to a need for staff with expertise in these areas such as molecular modeling, virtual screening and molecular diversity analysis. Whilst there are a few academic research groups (e.g., those at Erlangen, Leeds, Sheffield, Strasbourg, Texas and UCSF) producing doctoral and post-doctoral staff with the necessary skills, the numbers are insufficient for the current market need, which consists not only of pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies but also software and database companies. This has spurred the development of specialist programmes, typically at the MSc level, that focus on the production of graduates who can grasp the employment opportunities that are now becoming available. This paper will discuss the teaching and learning aims of three of the available programmes with which the author is familiar, focusing on the MSc in Chemoinformatics at the University of Sheffield, the MSc in Cheminformatics at the University of Manchester and the MS in Chemical Informatics at the University of Indiana [1].

1. Schofield, H., Wiggins, G. & Willett, P. "Recent developments in chemoinformatics education." *Drug Discovery Today*, **6**, 2001, 931-934.