# **Derek Shepherd**

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Determined and creative second-year Chemistry student at Cardiff University with proficient laboratory skills and excellent interpersonal abilities developed through diverse work experiences. Seeking an industrial placement at The ChemWay to apply my theoretical knowledge and further refine my practical skills in a dynamic and innovative environment.

### **EDUCATION**

# Chemistry with a Year in Industry (MChem), Cardiff University

2023 - 2027

- **Foundations of Organic Chemistry:** Recognised organic molecule shapes/bonding methods, and explained reaction mechanisms (substitution, elimination, addition), electron availability, and the curly arrow convention.
- **Foundations of Inorganic Chemistry:** Understanding atomic structure, electronic configurations, predicting trends in the periodic table, deriving MO diagrams for homonuclear diatomic molecules to predict properties, and utilising lattice enthalpies along with Born-Haber cycles for calculating enthalpies.
- **Further Physical Chemistry:** Analysed a variety of example cases such as enzyme catalysed reactions, chain reactions, polymerisation, and non-linear systems.

A Levels: Chemistry A\*, Maths A, History B, Cardiff Sixth Form

2021 - 2023

GCSEs: 11 x A\*- C, including Maths, English and Science, Cardiff High School

2016 - 2021

#### **RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

# Assistant Scientist (Chemistry), Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Jan - Feb 2024

- Collected, prepared, and analysed environmental samples used to assess water quality using a range of scientific analytical techniques. This involved using standard analytical methods and quality procedures and reporting results onto our Laboratory Information system.
- Followed standard methods and quality procedures and supported the quality system in line with ISO:17025; and carried out thorough investigations on quality control failures with a view to implement continual improvements.
- Maintained, calibrated, and troubleshot analytical and field equipment.
- Worked effectively in a team to ensure that the work within the function is delivered on time and to required quality.

### **President,** Cardiff University Chemistry Society

Sept 2023 - April 2024

- Led a team of passionate individuals in organising and executing a series of successful regular meetings and social events to foster a sense of community within the Chemistry Society.
- Acted as a first point of contact for the Chemistry Society for other student societies, facilitating collaboration and contributing to opportunities for cross-disciplinary networking.
- Created new strategies to increase engagement within the Chemistry Society such as utilising social media and lecture time to promote the society and therefore facilitating further collaboration.

#### **SKILLS**

**Laboratory skills:** Proficient in laboratory techniques, with a keen eye for detail, adherence to safety protocols, and the ability to analyse data accurately to contribute effectively to scientific research and experimentation, developed through safely carrying out a university experiment during the 'Year 1 Chemistry Foundation Practical' module, which involved putting into practice all the required procedures, with specific use of SOPs, instruction manuals, and risk assessments.

**Teamwork:** Proficient in promoting effective teamwork, playing to diverse strengths to achieve common goals collaboratively, effectively collaborating within teams, showcasing adaptability, communication, and a results-driven approach to achieve objectives, as demonstrated through involvement in Chemistry Society committee and organisational meetings, highlighting excellent teamwork skills.

**Communication:** Proven ability to clearly communicate results both in a written and verbal capacity, with excellent communication skills demonstrated through clear articulation, active listening, and adeptness in conveying complex ideas to diverse audiences, as exhibited by effectively communicating chemistry results as an Assistant Scientist.

**IT skills:** Highly skilled in IT, with proficiency in a wide range of software and hardware technologies, enabling efficient problem-solving and innovation in digital environments, possessing foundational IT skills including proficiency in chemical drawing software, data analysis tools, and laboratory information management systems to support experimental work and data analysis in research settings.

**Interpersonal skills:** Strong interpersonal skills evidenced by the ability to build rapport, resolve conflicts constructively, and collaborate effectively within dynamic team environments, demonstrated through effective communication, conflict resolution, and teamwork, as exemplified by roles as a Customer Services Assistant.

### **FURTHER EXPERIENCE**

# **Customer Services Assistant, Principality Stadium**

April 2021 - Present

- Delivered exceptional customer service during events at Cardiff Principality Stadium, ensuring all customers have a positive and memorable experience.
- Assisted with diverse enquiries and support a busy team in managing various tasks to ensure the smooth operation of events.

### **INTERESTS**

**Travelling | Travel during gap year** and exposure to diverse cultures have led to a deeper understanding of diversity and improved abilities to connect with people from various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.