Alec Wright

Personal Detail

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Personal Statement

Over the last six years spent in an R&D environment, I have progressed from an undergraduate researcher to then managing several laboratories each with its own team and discipline and now managing multi-million-dollar projects with global partners. My strong academic background of chemistry and chemical engineering underpinned with excellent communication skills has enabled me to thrive in small research teams to laboratories providing global functions. As someone who thoroughly enjoys taking the lead, seeking fresh opportunities, feels passionate about the benefits of involving myself in as much as I possibly can, I am looking for a role where I will be continued to be challenged daily and through which the impact will make a positive contribution to society.

Relevant Experience

R&D Technology Manager March 2019 – Present
JTI

Here I have built on my technology skills developing applied knowledge of electrical and electronic systems by performing and coordinating ad-hoc testing of consumer electronic devices. Having developed automated testing protocols and combining the measurement of several paraments together using MATLAB scripts have increased the speed of testing and improved the detail of the results. A key part of my role is project management, this involves working with external partners to develop concept devices and prototypes ensuring that key deliverable paraments are meet. This is done through attending global meetings, braining storming and coordinating testing protocols. Through brainstorming and other actives, I have generated an impressive IP portfolio with five patents generated within 6 months of starting.

- Electrical & electronic testing
- Project management
- IP generation

Loughborough University May 2018 – December 2018
Laboratory Manager

In this role, I supervised three research laboratories with over 15 researchers working on 10 different projects. My role involves me developing new research concepts, identify personnel to undertake this research and ensuring the deliverable are met on time. I also work supporting laboratory equipment selection and sample preparation.

- Highly organised in project planning.
- Facility management.
- Supporting and supervising junior researchers.

Loughborough University October 2015 – December 2018
PhD Chemical Engineering

My work was centred around an atmospheric pressure plasma reactor for the treatment of organic solutions. Diagnostics was a key part of my work and selecting the correct analytical equipment such as GCMS and LCMS for the quantitative evaluation of chemical species was an essential skill in the role. I also worked using plasma for green chemistry by removing the need for catalysts producing stereoselective epoxides as well as high-value acids through carboxylation reactions as an alternative method for carbon capture.

- Method development.
- Presentation of results in both written and oral forms.
- Operating and selecting analytical equipment.

Research Assistant, Loughborough University November 2017 – September 2018
Product development of an electronic device for a consumer.

During my third year, I worked part-time as an RA after securing funding to commercialise a consumer electronic device I had co-developed. Here the focus was on developing a small-scale device outside of a research basis, with the end-user firmly in mind. Once developed I aided in the testing period, checking the efficacy of the device against other commercial products. Here I developed skills in:

- Product development.
- Project finance management.
- Intellectual Property generation.

Research Assistant, Loughborough University September 2016 – March 2017
Design and development of a separative bioreactor for cellulosic biofuel production.

I was appointed as a part-time RA during my second year to co-develop a microbubble bioreactor for the stripping of ethanol from a biological broth. This involved working in part of a team and drawing on the knowledge I had already accumulated in bespoke reactors to design and develop the system. Time management was also key to deliver targets set within my PhD.

Taught Degree Programmes

Loughborough University September 2014 – September 2015
MSc Advanced Process Engineering
Degree classification: Distinction

University of Reading October 2010 – July 2014
MChem Chemistry
Degree classification: 2:1

Academic & Industry Accomplishments

Patents

Two from academia; one filed for a consumer electronic device for the treatment of contact lenses and one currently in the final stages before submission.
Five from industry in stages from filled to in preparation for filling.

Papers

Twelve academic peer-reviewed papers in high impact journals.

Awards

8 from national and international conferences.

Hobbies and Interests

As a person who thrives on being busy and who greatly enjoys working within a team, sports have always been of great importance to me. My winning mentality and dedicated attitude have enabled me to achieve my goal of playing for a professional rugby team. After years of high-level commitment to the sport, I have been fortunate enough to sign with Oxford RL playing under a professional contract. Away from rugby I also enjoy a variety of water sports, including surfing and sailing, due to my huge appreciation for nature. I believe this has enabled me to gain transferable skills in:

- Teamwork and leadership.
- Delivering under pressure.
- Execution of a given strategy.