

Case study Coventry University sets up mock clinical lab bringing Biomedical Science to life

HORIBA Analysers Give Coventry Students Vital Hands-On Biomedical Lab Experience



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Yvonne Elliott
Practitioner and Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Science
Coventry University

HORIBA UK Ltd, Medical Division, announce that Coventry University's Department of Biomolecular and Sports Science has recently installed new HORIBA haematology and clinical chemistry analysers to enhance the future employability of their students. In recognition of NHS requirements, Coventry can now offer their Biomedical Science degree students practical experience of real-life clinical instrumentation and applications. Consequently, this enables these future Biomedical Scientists to become truly enthusiastic about subjects that may otherwise seem dry theoretically.

Employees from NHS laboratories have highlighted the importance of students gaining hand-on experience and having familiarity with automated equipment so it is not totally new to them when on work placements or in graduate employment. "We see it as vital that our students build on the laboratory skills learnt at the bench, starting with manual techniques and learning the principle behind the tests before moving to securing practical experience in using real clinical instrumentation," commented Yvonne Elliott, Practitioner and Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Science (haematology) Coventry University.

Bringing Biomedical Science to life for their students, Coventry University has created a mock clinical laboratory setting by installing a HORIBA ABX Pentra 120 high-throughput haematology analyser and an ABX Pentra 400 chemistry analyser. All staff and students are able to use these new instruments following training from qualified and technical and Biomedical staff.

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Using real clinical instrumentation within the University also enables students to become fully aware of the critical importance of calibration, quality control and how it is linked to Clinical Pathology Accreditation. This is also key for working within NHS laboratories. For example, within the first year tutorial sessions, Biomedical students can use the ABX

400 Chemistry analyser to learn more on calibration curves, Beer-Lambert Law, accuracy and precision. Students are able to use the instrument's precision check function to statistically cross check results attained using manual spectroscopic methods. "In response to requests from employers, we are able to ensure that our students are fully grounded in quality control issues and measures, such as Levey-Jennings Charts and Westgard rules," commented Yvonne Elliott.

HORIBA's ABX Pentra 120 haematology analyser can be used in a similar way to actively demonstrate the principles of impedance counting and flow cytometry further adding to Coventry students' knowledge and awareness. Yvonne concluded.

"Using the instruments on a biomedical degree course provides our students with added enthusiasm to subjects that might seem dry theoretically and adds a dimension of reality to it which must enhance their employability in the long run."

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