STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

WILLIAM LIYAYI - LAB TECHNICIAN

Introduction

As a responsible employer supporting our community, CPH2 offers opportunities for work experience, apprenticeships and graduate placements alongside permanent roles.

In 2021, William Liyayi joined us from Lincoln University as Lab Technician to gain experience to complement his degree in Chemistry with Mathematics. William's ultimate aim is to find a role as a chemist once he graduates.

Why did you apply for the placement at CPH2?

I wanted to know what working as a chemist would entail. I had little practical knowledge of chemical engineering and electrochemistry. The last time I studied electrolysis was in my GCSE year. I'd heard about CPH2, was curious about their electrolyser technology, and wanted to understand more, especially as it was in the green energy sector, which I enjoyed studying in college.

'I'm proud to have taught William A-level Chemistry at Chapeltown Academy, and it has been a pleasure having him with us for 12 months. It is great to see a former student excel in the chemistry discipline and succeed in a great career. He has grown in knowledge and confidence and significantly impacted the team and our processes. Returning to University to finish his studies with the experience he has gained on how to apply chemistry in the workplace should ensure that he completes his degree with fantastic results before he returns to us in 2023.'

Bridie Haxby
Lead Scientist

How has working at CPH2 helped your studies?

During my second year at University, it became difficult to visualise what my studies would look like as a job, and I started to lose the thirst to learn. In my first week at CPH2, I couldn't believe I was using the theory I'd learned about pharmaceuticals, chemistry and medicine. My drive and enthusiasm quickly returned, and I soon realised that putting in the hours of reading had not been in vain.

What's a typical day at CPH2?

I start by checking the status of the test stations in the lab. If there are no tests, I will look at the log for planned tests or ones that have been requested, set-up the experiment and start the tests.

Other tasks include writing reports, presenting findings from test data to the team, analysing test data using software to visualise and evaluate results, and researching new ideas/methods to improve the CPH2 technology.