

# YOUR CAREER



## New directory 'a win-win'

Directory of Student Training Opportunities connects employers with students on registration pathway



Written by  
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**C**IEH PRESIDENT Julie Barratt has a clear mission – to champion the profession, safeguard its future and listen to what members want. The launch of a new CIEH Directory of Student Training Opportunities achieves all those objectives in one.

“It demonstrates the huge breadth of work that environmental health professionals are involved in, supports students following CIEH accredited training programmes to gain experience, and offers employers exposure to potential employees,” Barratt tells *EHN*. “By taking part, businesses and local authorities can help to grow the environmental health workforce we need for the future, so it is a glorious virtual circle.”

Launched in June and accessible to CIEH members, the directory is the culmination of a long-held ambition for Barratt, who came up with the idea in 2010 when she was director of CIEH Wales.

“I was aware that lots of people knew about lots of training available locally, but they had no idea what was on offer elsewhere,” she says. “So we started collecting the information in one place and it proved so successful that we rolled it out across England too. I spent a lot of my time visiting local authorities, getting them to contribute.”

The directory provides employers with a dedicated space to promote their roles to help environmental health students on the pathway to professional registration. It connects employers of EH services with students

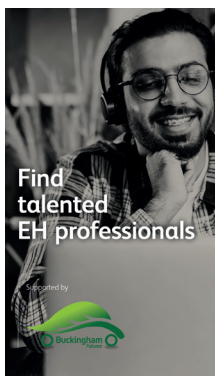
who are looking to improve their knowledge and the breadth of their existing skillset.

Most of the opportunities align with the requirements of the CIEH Environmental Health Practitioner portfolio, although a range of opportunities can be offered in the directory.

The original directory – produced in printed form – involved a network of training officers, committed to sharing opportunities and supporting workplace experience.

“I’m still in touch with students who came to Wales from Newcastle to work with me,” says Barratt. “We did all sorts of stuff including meeting government ministers and developing policy, and the experience stretched their ambitions. It showed how much variety there can be in this job.”

The new directory, however, is online and



◀ interactive. Opportunities posted are aligned to CIEH pathways to professional registration, such as a Chartered Environmental Health Practitioner, Registered EHP and Registered Food Safety Practitioner.

The idea is to connect providers of training opportunities from industry and the public sector with early career professionals looking for experience in different specialist areas to complement their professional practice portfolios.

### MODERN PATHWAY

“Students on the modern professional pathway need to get a range of experience, and they say they don’t always know where to start,” says CIEH marketing manager Mevin Durasamy. “This will make their lives much easier when considering training to broaden their approach.”

There is a growing demand for environmental health professionals across the UK, and awareness of the public health protection role has been amplified by COVID. “More people became aware of what we do, which is leading to a rise in student numbers,” agrees Daniel Radley, member engagement manager at CIEH.

“There are plenty of jobs out there for suitably qualified people, and the directory’s role is to support that by matching training experience with need,” he adds.



Environmental health recruitment expert Ketan Dattani warmly welcomes the directory. “It will be a great resource for students on the CIEH professional pathway, and an exciting initiative for potential employers,” he says.

“Providing training opportunities will prove to be a very practical way of identifying ideal candidates for opportunities that they might have available. There is value in it for everyone: it’s a win-win for students and employers alike.”

Dattani is founder and managing director of Buckingham Futures, the specialist recruitment company that sponsors the directory. “It is great to be involved and, as we work closely with key employers and universities, we

**Opportunities can be accessed by CIEH members at [cieh.org/login](http://cieh.org/login) – navigate to the ‘My resources’ section on the left-hand menu and then click on the ‘Student resources’ section on the left-hand side of the page. Employers wanting to submit an opportunity should visit [www.cieh.org/dsto](http://www.cieh.org/dsto)**

plan to promote it widely. It is an increasingly competitive market out there and broad work experience will make students more employable,” he says.

“Recent events have turbo-charged this profession and we want to make sure it can maintain the pace, which is why the new directory matters. Something designed to make it easier for students to gain the experience they need to enable them to take on the tasks that need doing has to be a benefit for us all.

“I meet young people who are passionate about the world they live in and making it better. We have to make it easier for them. Broadening inclusion and supporting the next generation are vital, and the directory does that.”

## CIEH EVENTS

CIEH offers a range of professional development and networking opportunities, including bitesize training, conferences and forums. Here is a selection of upcoming events:

### CONFERENCES

- CIEH Noise Management Conference 29 September
- CIEH Beauty Conference 18 October
- Safe Food Conference 15 November

### MEMBER FORUMS

- Health and safety coffee and catch-up 16 September
- Housing coffee and catch-up 6 October
- Food safety coffee and catch-up 28 October

### BITESIZE TRAINING

- Supplementary legislation to the Housing Act 2004 14 September
- Codex HACCP changes 20 October; 18 November
- Building construction – module 1: foundations and walls 10 October
- Building construction – module 2: ceilings and partitions 11 October
- Food allergen enforcement and compliance 11 October
- Building construction – module 3: roof design and construction 12 October
- Building construction – module 4: windows, doors and stairs 13 October

- Building construction – module 5: services installed into properties 14 October
- ### WORKSHOPS
- Statutory nuisance law and residential property 14 September
  - Guidance and best practice for health and safety in swimming pools 15 September; 22 September
  - HMO practical inspection 20-21 September (half days)
  - HHSRS enforcement 13-14 October (half days)
  - HMO enforcement 20-21 October (half days)
- For full details and to book visit [www.cieh.org/events](http://www.cieh.org/events)

### FILLING GAPS IN EXPERIENCE

The new directory is also welcomed by CIEH member Jennifer Nugent, who graduated with a degree in environmental health from John Moores University in Liverpool before joining Knowsley Council just as the COVID pandemic struck.

For the past two years she has been helping to manage outbreaks while studying to become an EHP. “I’m thankful that so far my training needs have been met locally,” she says. “But the directory will certainly be a great resource if I need to fill in any gaps in future, and I know just how much it will help others.”

**Pennie Taylor is an award-winning freelance journalist**