



# The Professional Student in the Professional University:

A Model for Making Academic Subjects  
with Multiple Potential Career Paths  
'Professional'

The Professional University, – *Strategic Goal: Helping every career-motivated student to achieve their career aspirations* (Strategic Plan 2006-2012)

“Integrated professional skills in the curriculum, encouraging a high degree of student *self-responsibility, self-evaluation and self-awareness* to improve graduates’ skills for career success.”

In some disciplines the ‘professional’ is clearly defined, e.g. Business Studies, Health, Education?

What about Biology?

## Some careers in Biology (Courtesy Institute of Biology website)

### **Agriculture**

Animal husbandry; Farm management; Veterinary science; Agricultural product testing; Agricultural engineering; Agricultural sales and marketing.

### **Biomedicine**

Medicine; Dentistry; Clinical science; Physiological measurement; Pharmaceutical industry; Radiography and radiotherapy.

### **Communications**

Information science; Journalism; Publishing; Broadcasting; Film and video; Museum work; Science promotion.

### **Education**

Teaching and lecturing; Laboratory support; Educational resources; Psychology; Sport and fitness training; Health and safety.

### **Environment**

Ecology; environmental protection; Waste management; Nature conservation; Environmental health; Town and country planning.

### **Food and Drink**

Brewing; Food quality assurance; Food product development; Catering technology; Pest control; Food and drink retailing.

## Defining 'Professional'

Maintaining up to date subject knowledge

Active in the profession

Reflective

Engaged in CPD/Life Long Learning

Ethical behaviour

## Strong PDP element in Biology

10 credit modules in each year

Linked to the 'methods' strand (research training)

Currently includes strong emphasis on career development

## Research article

# An investigation to determine variation in marsh orchid (*Dactylorhiza*) populations at Moses Gate Country Park, Bolton

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## Making 'Professional' explicit

Emphasising professional outcomes in the Methods strand

Making explicit a Professional ethos in all modules

Creating more opportunities for students at all levels to interact

Student membership of professional bodies?