



# Demonstrating - What's Involved?



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Postgraduate demonstrators play an important role in the teaching of our Chemistry undergraduate courses.

Most postgraduates undertake some demonstrating duties during their time in the Chemistry Department ([Learning and Teaching Handbook : 8.1.12: Policy on the use of postgraduates for teaching and assessment - Durham University](#)).

There are numerous opportunities for you to contribute to teaching including:

- Lab demonstrating (practicals)
- Problem classes
- Workshops

Find out more about these below:

## Demonstrating and Teaching - What is Involved?

### Lab Demonstrating

Many postgraduate students teach in our undergraduate laboratory course modules taking on a “Junior Demonstrator” role. See below for more information about the different lab modules you could teach in.

In a lab session, Junior demonstrators, along with an academic member of staff (a “Senior Demonstrator”) and technicians will work together to ensure the smooth running of the session.

**Lab Demonstrating duties typically include (but are not limited to):**

- Helping to ensure that Health and Safety rules are being followed
- Monitoring practical skills, equipment set-up and lab practice
- Giving feedback to students on their practical skills and general lab practice
- Demonstrating key practical skills and techniques to students
- Demonstrating the use of equipment in the lab to students
- Checking lab notebooks are being used well by students
- Collecting any samples prepared during the lab session
- Completing the student attendance register (demonstrator tick list)
- Giving a brief (~ 5 minute) introduction for your allocated experiment(s)

**Training and preparation required**

Lab specific training is given close to the start of a lab module (typically at least a week before it starts) that will explain how the course runs, discuss the different experiments and other important information including Health and Safety. You will also need to learn about your allocated experiment(s) by reading through information about the practical in advance and will also be given the opportunity to try the experiment (or parts of it) before you first lab demonstrating session. You will also need to familiarise yourself with the Health and Safety documentation for the course before you demonstrate in the lab.

## **Workshops and Problem Classes**

Some postgraduate students teach in workshops and/or problem classes. Workshops and problem classes take place in small lecture theatres, computer classrooms or other teaching rooms (not labs). Some workshops and problem classes are led by an academic member of staff and postgraduate students assist; in others the postgraduate student(s) will lead the session. Depending on the workshop or problem classes there may be some marking that you

would need to complete in advance of the timetabled teaching session.

### **Training and preparation required**

In advance of your workshop or problem class you would need to attend a training session (usually at least a week before the teaching activity begins). This will include information about the organisation of the course, finalising the teaching rota and other training relating to the course, for example, if you will be completing any marking this would include guidance on using GradeScope and providing constructive feedback.

You will need to familiarise yourself with any work that undergraduate students will complete during the workshop or problem class (working through the problems/questions yourself is a good way to do this), and if you are leading the session prepare a plan for how you will run the session (the module leader will advise).

### **Module and Course Information**

Please click the links below to find out more about the different modules or courses that you can teach/demonstrate in.

Will be available shortly.