



# EDWARD SAUNDERS

BSc (Hons) Human Biology

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## BIOGRAPHY

Edward Saunders is a 21 year old Human Biology student investigating the effects of cannabinoids on dopamine-associated cytotoxicity commonly associated with Parkinson's Disease, and opioid use. His research aims to provide an insight into the neuroprotective effects of cannabinoids such as anandamide (AEA). This research quantifies the neuroprotective effects by comparing Tyrosine Hydroxylase (TyH) gene expression between planarian flatworm samples in 3 drug conditions; Methamphetamine (0.03uM, 0.06uM), AEA (2.5uM, 5uM), and combination (0.03uM MA + 5uM AEA, 0.06uM + 5uM AEA).

Edward's extracurricular activities include participation in the USW climbing and bouldering club, USW Gym bootcamp, metafit, and spin classes, as well as recent ventures in Brazilian jiu jitsu. Edward is also a part of a local clean-up initiative focused on litter picking in the community, and a dedication to reducing environmental impact wherever possible.

## EXPERIENCE

- Undergraduate Student Researcher (2019)  
Microbiology department  
Strain typing and disk diffusion testing water samples from across Wales (2019)
- Student Mentor at USW  
USWSU  
Acted as a student mentor for new students at USW, helping to relay information and address any issues raised.
- Undergraduate Student Researcher (2018)  
Genetics and Microbiology Departments  
Investigating antibiotic resistance in E. coli samples, and subsequent effect of gene cassettes on antibiotic resistance

## EDUCATION

- Human Biology Years 1 and 2  
University of South Wales  
2nd Year BSc Human Biology (Hons) at USW - 2:1  
1st Year BSc Human Biology (Hons) at USW - 1st
- Reigate College  
Sixth Form College  
A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Psychology
- Reigate Grammar School  
Secondary School  
iGCSE's in Biology, Chemistry, Drama, English Language, English Literature, Further Maths, History, Latin, Maths, Physics, and Spanish

## AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Course Representative platinum certificate (2019 & 2020)
- Award of Outstanding achievement in first year Human Biology
- Oracle iLearning Java Foundations Certificate
- National Citizen Service

## REFERENCES

- Tracie McKinney, BA, MA, PhD, SFHEA  
tracie.mckinney@southwales.ac.uk | (01443) 4 82933
- Darren Johnson, BSc (Hons), MRes, PhD, MRSB  
darren.johnson1@southwales.ac.uk | (01443) 4 82819
- Lewis Fall, BSc (Hons), PhD  
lewis.fall@southwales.ac.uk | (01443) 4 82106
- Jeroen Nieuwland, MSc, PhD  
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## TESTIMONIALS

"Edward demonstrates all of the qualities I hope for in a course rep. He considers all of his classmates' positions equally and diligently reports them to the course team or SCLG meetings. He responds to queries quickly and honestly, and is a fantastic liaison between the staff and students. Edward remains dedicated to his course even when he is going through difficult stages of his own studies, and for this he deserves recognition. His commitment to improving mental health in the university; alongside spearheading the campaign to improve budgets for student services. He has continued to work extremely hard to improve the students experience. Edward, I take my hat off to you sir."