



## Food Science Student Wins Industry Award



The annual Hutchinson Jonas Award for excellence in industry has gone to outstanding placement student, Emma Choules. The award is in recognition of her achievements during an exceptional one year industrial placement at Tesco.

Emma, originally from Surrey, is a Food Science student at the University of Reading and spent her year in a very “hands on” capacity including taking part in a business critical project and working on Quality and Complaint Issues.

The award, now in its fourth year, was presented by Scott Hutchinson group MD, Hutchinson Jonas, at an informal lunch held by Professor Mike Gordon, Director of Teaching & Learning and Darsh Gajjar, Industrial Placement Manager at the University.

The course at Reading is a leading example of a vocational course that is succeeding in filling the skills gap in the food industry. The students gain valuable experience that often leads directly onto a job. The £500 Hutchinson Jonas Award is an incentive to excel while on placement.

Once again, the award has been won by a student whose placement was at the UK retail giant, Tesco. As in previous years, Tesco made the absolute most of the student resource – involving them completely in the technologist team from day one.

Emma’s role as Junior Technologist involved working in the frozen category where she was immediately handed the reins of an important project involving salt reduction in line with FSA guidelines. By the end of the year, Emma had ensured that 92% of the products had achieved the required standard. Whilst finding the time to undertake this project, Emma was involved in the “day job” of her Quality role, working with suppliers on various issues. “The first week I arrived, I spent at a supplier in Scotland” said Emma “after that my feet barely touched the floor”.

Emma was exposed to a variety of different products during the year including Yorkshire puddings, seafood, convenience food, pies and sausages. She said that “I was already quite a positive person, but dealing with such a wide variety of products and companies in such a short period of time has really been a massive confidence boost for me”.

It also obviously worked well for Tesco as well – at the end of the year Emma was offered TWO roles within the company and starts there on July 4<sup>th</sup>, prior to graduating on July 11<sup>th</sup>.



Press Enquiries to: Scott Hutchinson [scott@hutchinsonconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:scott@hutchinsonconsultancy.co.uk)

Hutchinson Consultancy Ltd is the parent company of Jonas Consulting. The two companies provide interim and permanent recruitment to the FMCG industry.

**Their customers currently include 74 out of the top 100 food companies in the UK.**