

# Saltire Scholar Blog

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Arranta Bio  
My Saltire Blog



Hello, my name is Iona Godden, and I have recently taken part in a virtual internship as a marketing and communications intern with Arranta Bio, a biotechnology company based in Florida. Despite being unable to travel to the company site in Gainesville, I was able to undertake my work from home. As one of Saltire's very first virtual interns I was extremely apprehensive about the uncertainty that lay ahead. This blog will discuss my initial apprehensions, adapting to working online, and my final reflections on such a truly unique internship experience.

Undoubtedly, it took me a few weeks to adapt to my new working environment. Initially, I felt completely overwhelmed with the prospect of adapting to life online. I didn't know where I fitted in, what my role would be within the company, and how it was even going to be possible to intern with a company halfway across the world. The whole thing felt so daunting, which was further compounded by the unnatural situation that we all found ourselves in. On top of this, my mind was shrouded with self-doubt. With no experience in the biotech industry, and having relatively limited marketing and communications experience, I began to doubt my ability. With all of these hurdles to overcome, how could I possibly add value to this company? I felt completely out of my depth.

However, much to my own surprise, I soon adapted to the at-home working conditions, and my anxieties quickly disappeared. I was able to work at my own pace, set my own deadlines, and build a work schedule that accommodated my most productive working hours. Whilst such flexibility and independence initially daunted me, it ultimately forced me to take ownership of my work. As the weeks flew in, I was given greater responsibility, and granted the creative license to truly take projects into my own hands. With this, my confidence grew hugely. I could see the value I was adding, and I could feel myself getting increasingly invested in my work.



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Curating social media posts, sourcing intranet content, and creating materials to promote Arranta Bio's very first webinar are just a few examples of projects I undertook during my time at Arranta Bio. Such a broad range of projects really allowed me to gain a well-rounded view of all marketing and communications entails. As I come from a largely management and law background, this insight was truly invaluable for my future professional development.

Whilst my ability to work independently undoubtedly grew, feeling like a part of the Arranta Bio team was an integral part of my internship experience. Group calls, management meetings, weekly catchups and companywide town halls truly immersed me into the Arranta Bio culture, and I felt supported throughout. In particular, the continuous guidance and support from my supervisor, Amanda, made my journey working for a biotech company so smooth as I quickly learnt how to bridge the gap between my business knowledge, and distinct lack of knowledge of the industry I found myself in.

Overall, my internship with Arranta Bio has been a truly unique and enriching experience. The skills, knowledge and confidence I've gained will undoubtedly aid me in my future endeavours. From the very first Saltire application, to my journey starting at Arranta Bio, I have felt supported and encouraged throughout. Despite such uncertainty in the world, I am grateful to have been given this unique opportunity and would like to thank both Saltire and Arranta Bio for this truly invaluable experience.

