

Product Development Placement Programme 2027 for the UK chilled and grocery Food Market

UK Grocery Market

Salary: £26,850 per annum. An additional uplift is also provided for employees based at a London site.

Benefits: Relocation assistance available - Any relocation payments made will be paid back in **July 2027**! Access to employee benefits through our discount platform.

Location: Greencore site TBC – could be London, Lincolnshire, Bo’ness, (Scotland), Newark Northampton or Worksop

Ways of Working: Site-based

Start Date: End of June 2027

Contract Type: 12-Month Fixed-Term Contract

Assessment Centre Date/Location: **Tuesday 26th January 2027 at our Newark site**

Why Greencore?

Greencore is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of convenience food, with over 100 years of experience and a simple purpose: to make every day taste better.

Every day, our food reaches millions of consumers through the UK's major retailers and foodservice providers. With over 28,000 colleagues across 36 manufacturing sites and 21 distribution depots in the UK and US, we're investing in the talent, expertise and capabilities that will help shape our next century of success.

We're already home to some of the best talent in the industry. From operations, manufacturing and engineering to technical, commercial and central functions, our colleagues have the opportunity to learn from each other, develop their skills and build rewarding careers in a business where they can make a real impact.

Many of our leaders and specialists started their careers with Greencore - developing future talent is an important part of how we continue to grow and succeed as a business. That's why our graduate, undergraduate and apprenticeship programmes are so important, giving talented young people the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, learn from experienced colleagues and take the first steps towards a rewarding career with us.

Turn Your Passion for Food into Real Products

Greencore and its recruitment partners never charge candidates any fees at any stage of the hiring process. Any request for payment relating to a job opportunity should be considered fraudulent.

If you're passionate about food, curious about consumer trends and interested in understanding how products make it from ideas to supermarket shelves, our Food Product Development Placement Programme could be for you.

This placement has been designed to give you first-hand experience of Product Development within one of the UK's leading food businesses.

Over 12 months, you'll gain exposure to the product development process, from identifying trends and generating ideas through to recipe development, customer presentations, factory trials and product launch.

You'll work alongside experienced Product Developers, Chefs and cross-functional teams, gaining valuable insight into the commercial, technical and operational considerations required to develop successful products.

Most importantly, you'll be given real responsibility from day one, allowing you to contribute to live projects and develop your skills in a supportive environment.

What You'll Be Doing

As part of the Product Development team, you'll gain experience across a wide range of activities, including:

- Coordinating product samples and managing courier requirements to support customer requests and submissions.
- Exploring food trends and identifying new product opportunities
- Product benchmarking and competitor reviews
- Supporting recipe development and product refinement
- Supporting factory trials and product launches
- Assisting with critical path management and project coordination
- Understanding ingredient sourcing and supplier engagement
- Supporting product costings and commercial activities
- Preparing products and supporting documentation for customer presentations
- Participating in sensory evaluation sessions
- Building relationships with Technical, Commercial, Process, Procurement and Operations teams

This is predominantly an office-based Product Development role, rather than a kitchen-based Chef position.

What You'll Learn

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During your placement, you'll develop knowledge and experience in:

- Product Development processes
- Ingredients and raw materials
- Food trends and consumer insight
- Nutrition and product quality
- Factory manufacturing processes
- Customer requirements and retailer expectations
- Project management
- Commercial awareness and product costings
- Cross-functional working within a food manufacturing environment

You'll gain a practical understanding of how successful food products are developed, manufactured and launched within the UK grocery market.

What We're Looking For

We're looking for students who are genuinely excited by food, innovation and consumer products.

Degree

Currently studying a Food Science, Food Technology, Nutrition, Culinary Innovation, Hospitality or related degree programme and looking for a placement year as part of your undergraduate studies.

Passion for Food

A genuine curiosity about food, ingredients, consumer trends and innovation.

Teamwork

Experience of working effectively as part of a team through work, university or extracurricular activities.

Motivation

A desire to learn more about the food industry and explore a career within Product Development.

Personal Attributes

- Strong attention to detail
- Curiosity and willingness to learn
- Positive attitude
- Ability to take initiative

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- Adaptability and resilience

Driving Licence

A full UK driving licence and access to transport is preferred, as some of our sites and suppliers may not always be readily accessible by public transport.

Right to Work

You'll need to have the right to work in the UK for the duration of the placement. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide visa sponsorship for this role.

The Support You'll Receive

We want you to succeed, so you'll be supported throughout your placement by experienced colleagues and leaders.

Line Manager

You'll work closely with an experienced manager who will provide regular feedback, coaching and development support throughout the placement.

Structured Development

You'll receive on-the-job training and gain exposure to a broad range of Product Development activities and projects.

Business Exposure

You'll work with colleagues from across Technical, Commercial, Operations, Procurement and Process teams, helping you build a strong understanding of the wider business.

Future Opportunities

Successful placement students may be considered for future opportunities within Greencore, including direct-entry roles or places on our Graduate Programme.

Where Could It Take You?

This placement is designed to provide a strong foundation for a future career in Product Development.

By the end of the placement, you'll have gained valuable experience within a fast-paced food manufacturing environment, developed a deeper understanding of Product Development, and built skills that will support your future career.

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Whether your next step is returning to university or applying for one of our Graduate Programmes, you'll leave with practical experience and industry knowledge that will help set you apart.

If you're passionate about food and excited by the idea of developing products enjoyed by consumers across the UK, we'd love to hear from you.

What's next:

Once you have submitted your online application, it will be reviewed to ensure you meet the required criteria. If you meet all the requirements and are selected to progress, you will move on to Stages 2 and 3: an automated online video interview and online aptitude testing.

Once both stages have been completed and reviewed, successful candidates will progress to the final stage: an in-person assessment day, held at one of our sites or another designated venue.

We reserve the right to close this advertisement before the stated closing date.

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