

Assessment: Industrial Workshop in DSM January 2019

Following the first Industrial Workshop in DSM, a questionnaire was submitted to the PhD Students to have a feed-back on both the practical organization of this workshop and its content.

1. Practical organization

The accommodation was rated well, with most students rating it from “good” to “excellent”. The transport, schedule, lab visits and timing were rated in the same way: in majority “excellent” and the rest “very good”. The lunch breaks were also positively rated. One student underlined that “this type of lunch gave the opportunity to talk and discuss with the others, which was appreciated”.

All the students underlined that they received enough information on the organization of the workshop. No one needed additional information that was not received.

2. Content of the Elementary Modules I

All students said the topics discussed gave them a good introduction to work in the industry. Two students underlined topics they would have liked to be discussed:

- Recruiting strategy
- How to be a good candidate for these kinds of industries, what are the first missions for a new researcher in DSM for example, how to apply to a DSM position, what kind of people they are expecting

The lectures on each topic followed a “good timing”.

Only one students found he did not have enough time to ask questions. All the other students said they were allowed sufficient time for their questions.

The four students who had requests during the training found they were taken into account by the organizers.

3. Lab tour feed-back

The following comments on the lab tour were made :

- “Good organization and timing. Interesting tour, mainly for the connection between research and industrial purposes”
- “The organized lab tours were very interesting. I really liked that we could see the tensile test and the extruder. In the rheology part there were maybe too many instruments to describe in such short time”
- “The lab and side tour was exciting. The personnel was very friendly, approachable and informative. Also they were very keen to answer all my questions. Overall, we had enough time to get an idea of how is work in the industry and understand the real application of what we are doing in academia”
- “Feedback on workshop – Very interesting to have discussions instead of formal lectures on sustainability and product development. Very nice idea for the working lunch to be able to discuss further with experts from the company”
- “The lab tour is very interesting. Michelle, Tom, and Paul are very nice and gave us a lot of helpful information. The staffs working in the lab are also very patient. Every time I asked them questions, they answered them with many details. Above all, it is a great lab tour”
- “It was pretty meaningful that it gave us some practical knowledge in industry”
- “Very interesting and diverse”
- “Very interesting and very nice, covered different fields and different people with different experiences”
- “The lab tour was really good. However, a break in between the stations would have been good. 3 h of standing and listening was a little bit exhausting”
- “It was very interesting to see labs in industry but perhaps too short to really get into. Each presentation was really fast and more time was needed to my mind”
- “It is nice to see both production sites and laboratory. Good explanations received during the lab tour”
- “The workshop visit is helpful and the introduction were very detailed. Thanks a lot”.

4. Suggestions for the following Industrial Workshop

The following suggestions of topics that students would like covered during the next Industrial Workshop are:

- Interactive discussions
- Job seeking
- How do they build a bridge between the scientific results and the corresponding real productions? If they encounter a technological problem, in what way do they let the relevant scientists know?
- Most of them were very interesting topics we are not used to talk about in PhD program. So interesting to get an industrial point of view in research but also about business link to it
- I would like to hear more about the recruiting strategy.

5. Attention points for the next Industrial Workshop (Montpellier 2020)

Following the results of this questionnaire, the following items need to be taken into consideration for the next meeting.

- Subjects to address:
 - recruiting strategy
 - candidate profile in industry
 - how to build a bridge between the scientific results and the corresponding real productions?
 - How does industry work with university scientists?

Students appreciate interactive discussions with people working in the industry. Interesting for them “to see the industrial point of view in research and how business is linked to it”.

- Lab tour:
 - If possible, not too many instruments presented at once
 - Students appreciate the diversity of profiles in the people they meet and the possibility to discuss with them during working lunch breaks
 - Include breaks in the lab tour and be attentive to the length of the courses (not too short and fast as students do not have time to get into the subject as easily).