

Chemistry, a Booming Study

Some personal data:

Name: Annemiek Knijnenburg
Date of Birth: May 11, 1984
Education: 2000-2002 pre-bachelor education at the Rotterdam Conservatory
(Music department, Accordion)
2002 High School Diploma
2006 Bachelor in Chemistry

After finishing High School one thing for me was certain: I wanted to study something in which I could use both brain and hands. The practical aspect of the study of Chemistry was really important for me. To make new molecules with your own hands makes you really enthusiastic! Probably this was noticed by the staff and I got involved as ambassador to High School students to promote studying Chemistry at the University. I am still involved in this program and find it quite rewarding! Chemistry is seen by many as an old-fashioned and boring study and it is nice to see that when giving a realistic view about the study at the University, High School students also become enthusiastic! I recently completed my bachelor education and continued for a Master in 'Design and Synthesis', with a major subject in Organic Chemistry
In my free time I like to play the accordion and play a lot of sports.

Proposal for a presentation:

Most of the time the Study of Chemistry is seen as a boring and old-fashioned study and this image needs to be improved! In the High Schools in the Netherlands not much time is devoted to practical work. As far as I am concerned that is a pity. To make High School students enthusiastic one should give them practical experience in the University. This should make it easier for them to choose Chemistry. Today one can study many subjects related to Chemistry at the University and this makes it difficult for the High School student to get a clear picture. Hopefully, this problem can be solved by offering the High School student one year of introduction to Chemistry. In this year every direction of chemistry is introduced. After the first year the students will choose their main subject for example 'Chemical Technology', 'Sustainability' or 'Fundamental Chemistry'. This new study is called 'Molecular Science & Technology' and it is offered together with the Delft University of Technology.
Hopefully this cooperation and the modern methods of promoting this new program will help to increase the number of chemistry students in the near future!