I was very fortunate to be awarded a WPSA Summer Vacation Scholarship in 2010. My summer project, which also provided data for my third year dissertation, involved investigating the effects of incorporating a novel bio-fuel co-product in poultry diets on bird performance. This scholarship enabled me to understand what it is like to work as a research scientist and taught me how to design, implement and evaluate experiments. My laboratory skills improved immensely because of this scholarship and I gained considerable knowledge about the poultry industry, animal nutrition and how to conduct research. I found being given the opportunity to be involved in the whole process of bird care and diet manufacture, collection of biological samples, laboratory analysis, data analysis and presentation of my findings at a conference an invaluable experience. I feel I gained so many transferable skills from this experience, including how to successfully present at conferences, manage and organise my time and work in a team. I also found it really rewarding to contribute to on-going commercial research that actually contributed towards the poultry nutrition industry. I would definitely recommend this scholarship to anyone who is looking for experience in a research environment or animal nutrition. Undertaking this scholarship inspired me to pursue a career in poultry nutrition research and I have since gone on to complete a PhD in poultry nutrition and am now currently a post-doctoral research fellow at Nottingham Trent University.