



**gfirst**<sup>®</sup>  
growing gloucestershire

# re<sup>the</sup>searcher

>> **Prof. Steven Walker** Director  
General of Campden BRI.

Founded in 1919, as an arm of Bristol University, the Campden site quickly became known as the leading UK authority on the processing of canned foods.

Campden BRI is the UK's largest independent membership-based organisation carrying out research and development for the food and drinks industry worldwide. It is committed to providing industry with the research, technical and advisory services needed to ensure product safety and quality, process efficiency and product and process innovation.

Having recently celebrated its 90th anniversary and employing 380 scientific researchers and undertaking development for the many industries associates with agriculture, food and drink manufacture, distribution, retailing and food service Campden BRI is widely regarded as the worlds leading food research company.

**Campden BRI**   
food and drink innovation

[www.gfirst.co.uk](http://www.gfirst.co.uk)



“Great achievement takes place in the form of great expectation”

**Prof. Steven Walker // Director General**

Describe yourself in three words:

**Integrity, enthusiastic, approachable.**

Being such a niche industry, do you find local skilled staff hard to find?

**We attract graduates from external colleges. Many are from the area originally but want to come back to the area. We find students who come on placements often graduates leave and then come back to what they know. We also have great links with local schools. We regularly host student groups have the kids here where we will have days out to can show them what we are doing here at ‘that science place’. We do careers evenings and work experience. We are the largest employer locally so we hire the majority of our admin staff from this area. They tend to stay for a very long time.**

What’s unique about living and working in Gloucestershire?

**You have the opportunity to have a great work/life balance, you can be all cosmopolitan in Cheltenham during the day and have the chance to walk in the countryside in the same day. There is a great mix. We have the best countryside here as well as the best villages. Also there are great schools here.**

What do you think are the key benefits of being based in Gloucestershire?

**As a business we have contacts all over the UK as well as worldwide and therefore being in a centrally-based location means that we are not far away from them. Because of this, our clients often arrange to meet on our premises as we are generally no more than around two hours’ travelling time from most locations.**

What advice would you give to an aspiring local entrepreneur?

**Truly understand your clients and truly understand your products.**

What’s the best advice you’ve ever been given?

**Great achievement takes place in the form of great expectation.**

Where would we find you on a lazy day off?

**I’m an unpaid taxi driver for the kids at the weekend, but I also like to grow vegetables and potter in the garden.**