

University of Sussex

School of Business, Management and Economics

Bright new talent

Student placements to help your business thrive



US

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www.sussex.ac.uk/bmec



Jessica Damiral, Finance Graduate,
London Transport Museum

Student placements: added value for your business

The University of Sussex delivers a range of undergraduate business degrees that incorporate a year-long professional work placement. For an employer, taking on a placement student can bring considerable benefits.

Boost to human resources

The placement student works for you for 12 months, providing a substantial, fixed period of extra manpower. Placement students can take on a project from start to finish, contribute fresh ideas to your business and be an extra pair of hands for a period of growth.

Skills and enthusiasm

Our students bring diverse skills from their own backgrounds, their previous work experience and university studies. They are enthusiastic about applying these skills in a real working environment and will dedicate themselves to your business objectives throughout their placement.

Recruitment tool

You'll have a year to train and develop a placement student who could be a future graduate recruit. Student placements can represent a highly cost-effective, low-risk tool for permanent recruitment.

Solid business knowledge

Our students have two years' background in the study of business and management, covering a range of core modules and specialising in Accounting and Finance, HR, Marketing or International Business.

Visibility

Hosting placement students raises your company's profile on campus and in the local community.

Strategic thinking, innovation, practical skills

At Sussex we're determined to ensure our students receive a well-rounded education, combining sound business knowledge with hands-on experience. The students' skills are developed using a case-study approach and a focus on group project work throughout their university studies.



Courses taken by our students in their first and second year include:

Common core of courses	Plus specialised study
Business management Business law HR management Change management Information systems Financial and managerial accounting Marketing and market research Innovation management Introduction to economics	Accounting & finance: Principles of finance Statistics for economics and finance Finance for development Business & management studies: World economy since 1945 Political economy of development Europe in the international economic order Business with HR management: Culture across space and time Emerging issues in human resource management and industrial relations International business: International development: ideas and actors Issues in development Work economy since 1945 International business environment International business strategy Business (marketing): Marketing strategy Tools and techniques for marketing and market research
Placement preparation	

Professional and prepared

We're careful to ensure that our students embark on their placement year with full awareness of their professional responsibilities as an employee – ready to contribute, collaborate and enjoy the whole experience.

Placement focus sessions are organised throughout the students' first year, while in their second year we run a full 10-week placement preparation course, covering employer research, applications, interviews, working culture, employment law, project management and risk analysis.

We invite employers to the course to tell the students about their business, their values and the kind of recruits they look for – encouraging the students from early on to engage with the realities, challenges and ultimate rewards of securing professional experience.

Professor Ian Davidson
Head of the School of Business,
Management and Economics, addresses
students preparing for their placement year



A partnership to promote your organisation...

We can actively help find suitable candidates for a placement with your company.



At your request we can:

- Advertise your vacancies directly to our business students and on our central university jobs database at no cost to you
 - Brief the students on your specifications
 - Arrange for you to make presentations and meet the students on campus
 - Provide interview rooms and other facilities as required
 - Provide you with practical advice about hosting placement students
 - Assist your recruitment process in other ways as required
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Paul Fuller

Graduate Trainee Cargo Underwriter, RSA

...and support our students

We believe the university has a critical role to play in assuring the success of the placement for both employer and student.

The School of Business, Management and Economics has a placement officer who works with employers to organise placement opportunities and with students to apply for positions and make preparations.

The placement officer remains on hand throughout the placement year to offer advice and information as needed.

Each student is additionally linked to a placement tutor – a member of academic staff who follows their progress on the placement and will normally visit the student at least once during the year.



University of Sussex campus



We highly value our relationship with all employers and we are committed to ensuring you have a positive experience of our placement programme, our students and your collaboration with us.

The student and their employer

We emphasize to students that they are full employees during their placement year. That is, they will act with first responsibility towards their employer and will expect to receive training, supervision, monitoring and discipline in line with your other employees.

We also advise the students that they should be adequately paid for their work. Placement year salaries range very widely, but, as a guide, the national average in 2010 was £15,704 (source: www.ratemyplacement.co.uk).

The student and the university

During their year working for you, the students also have some responsibilities towards the university.

We ask them to stay in touch and to let us know about any problems they can't resolve in-house.

The students have to write a detailed academic report based on their placement year – so they will need to be proactive in researching and planning this, making sure they send regular updates to their placement tutor.

They also have to keep an online learning log of their placement experience.

The university and the placement employer

We request that employers appoint a supervisor to oversee the student's work and development during the placement. The supervisor is normally the main contact with the placement officer at the university. Students may also benefit from discussing their academic report with their supervisor, especially if requesting access to company data and resources.

We ask you to provide a written summary, at the end of the placement, of the student's main achievements and will also sometimes request that employers back up information provided by the student in their online learning log.

Finally, it is our practice to exchange a letter of expectation with each employer before the start of the placement, clarifying arrangements regarding health and safety. A sample document can be viewed at: www.sussex.ac.uk/bam/placements/employers



Prateek Sureka

Researcher, Big Innovation Centre,
The Work Foundation

Getting in touch

If you are interested in taking on a Sussex business student for a professional placement year, please contact:



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