Enhance your career prospects ‘with industry’

At Leicester, we’re committed to providing a stimulating academic experience that’s also geared towards enhancing your post-graduation employment prospects, and helping you to fulfil your potential. Studying your degree with industry provides you with the tools to do just this, by spending 12 to 15 months on a work placement in the year before your final year.

We’ve identified four key benefits of doing your degree with industry:

**Work Experience**
You will benefit from real-world experience in a commercial setting, enabling you to make an easier transition from studying to working after you graduate. Many employers favour graduates with relevant industry experience, and they often use similar recruitment processes for placements as for their full time job opportunities. In the graduate job market, this can give you significant competitive advantage.

**Insight into a potential career path**
You will find out, via your own first-hand experience in an organisational setting, whether a particular type of career or company is something you would like to pursue in the future. You may decide that a particular type of career isn’t for you, yet still accrue a multitude of technical, transferable and ‘soft’ skills which will enhance your post-graduation career prospects. Equally, your placement may cement the fact that, in your own mind, you have found the ideal career path for you and arm you with the necessary skill-set needed to pursue it.

A stronger CV
By taking a year out in industry, you will significantly bolster your CV, enabling you to stand out from the crowd when it comes to applying for competitive graduate positions - particularly against those who cannot boast the relevant work experience. You’ll not only be able to demonstrate industry-specific capability, but transferable ‘soft skills’ too, such as communication, leadership and interpersonal skills, which are equally important.

Money!
You will be paid an annual salary for your year in industry, giving you much more financial flexibility in both the short and long term. Besides your salary, which will typically be in the region of £16,000 - £21,000 per year, you will continue to be eligible for student maintenance loan payments, putting you in a very healthy financial position for the year.

How do I secure a placement?
If you enrol on an undergraduate course with an industrial year, you will attend a compulsory weekly employability course in your second year. This will cover all aspects of labour market information, applications and preparing you for the recruitment processes, introductions to employers, networking, contract advice and work place briefings.

What support will I get on my placement?
You will be fully supported whilst on placement. You will complete an online placement log which provides real time opportunities to feedback on your progress. You will be allocated a University of Leicester supervisor who will visit you during your placement, and you will have various other points of contact within both the University and your placement provider.
We hope that we’ve provided you with enough information on which to base your decision to study a ‘with industry’ degree. There’s lots more information online, including need-to-know information, student feedback, employer testimonials and our Student Charter. Visit www.le.ac.uk/stem-placements to find out more.

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