Placement Scotland

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Shaping the stars of tomorrow

Edinburgh Napier UNIVERSITY   e-skills uk   ScotlandIS   Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education

What we do

- e-Placement Scotland is funded by the Scottish Funding Council, currently until July 2014

- We make available quality, paid placements for students studying computing, computer science, software engineering, IT

- You can use e-PS to gain valuable industrial experience and improve your career prospects on graduation

The importance of Employability Skills

According to a survey of 694 UK-based employers the following were the 3 most important factors when employing graduates:

1. Relevant work experience/placement

2. Degree subject

3. Attitude!

Employability is about having the necessary skills and attributes to function successfully in a role.

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Benefits of a Work Placement

Students on work placements report:

- increased awareness of current developments within industry/commerce

- greater experience of teamwork and development of inter-personal skills

- increased confidence within the world of work

- networking opportunities with a wide range of employers

- improved job opportunities on graduation

Why promote placements?

Computing Degree

+

Industrial Experience

=

Excellent Career Prospects

Dr Bill Mitchell FBCS FHEA CITP
Director, BCS Academy of Computing

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Placement – a Unique Experience

- Industrial Placement is the **definitive employability experience** for students

- Studies indicate positive benefits on academic performance post-placement - including final degree classification

- Employers confirm that placement is a strong route towards graduate employment

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Why you should take note of e-PS:

- e-Placement Scotland is a source of **new** placements – 750 placement opportunities over four years. All of the placements are paid

- We are a route into SMEs – through ScotlandIS

- Use us to take a placement on top of your studies, e.g. in summer, or during term time - many are part-time and flexible

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Am I eligible?

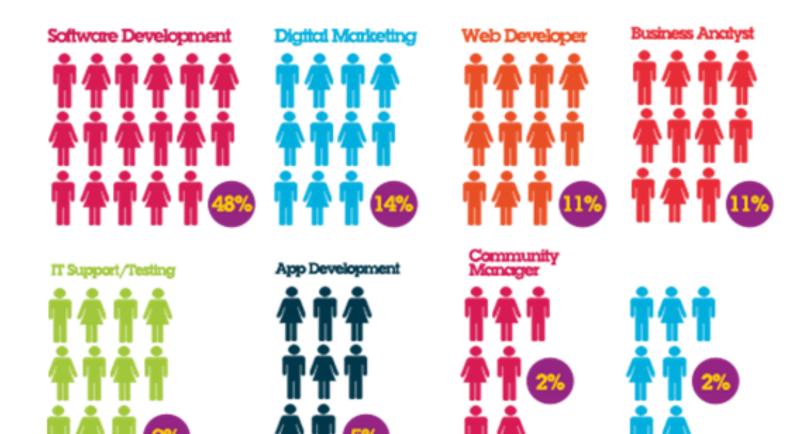There are only two criteria:

- You must be registered as a student in Scotland – the service is open to all Scottish Universities

- You must be returning to study on completion of the placement

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What types of placement are available?

- Placements are with companies in the technology sector or in the IT divisions of large organisations

- We have some **part-time** and **full-time** placements starting now

- The majority of our placements are **full-time for three months** over the summer

Software Development — 48%

Digital Marketing — 14%

Web Developer — 11%

Business Analyst — 11%

IT Support/Testing — 9%

App Development — 5%

Community Manager — 2%

2%

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Case Study

- Diana Crisan, student on BSc Computer Science, University of Edinburgh

- Took a three-month summer placement as a software developer with Flexiant, leading European provider of cloud management software

- Diana continued to work for Flexiant while completing her studies, and was offered a graduate position

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Some Advice

- Read job descriptions carefully and don't be put off if you don't have 100% of what the employer is asking for – 40% can be what the employer really needs

- Don't be put off if the hours don't suit you - employers are more flexible than you think

- Resilience! The ideal job won't appear right away – or ever. You may not be shortlisted for the first role you apply for. You may not be appointed at your first interview. Keep trying!

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How do I apply?

- [www.e-Placement Scotland.com](http://www.e-PlacementScotland.com)

- Register on the website, complete a profile, upload your CV

- Look at the 'roles' as these appear on the website, and click a button to apply

- But first – is your CV as good as it could be?

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Elements of a good CV

- What computing **skills** have you developed through your studies?

- How strong is your **performance** relative to your peers?

- What other evidence do you have that you would be a **good fit** with the company?

- ……..you should upload a fresh CV before each application, 'optimised' for the role

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A placement could help you to *Stand Out from the Crowd*

- Think ahead – the graduate job market is competitive

- Fewer than 20% of IT graduates last year had completed a placement

- Taking a placement could see your CV go to the top of the applicants pile

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLgZ_XqzVNA

Next Steps: Keep in touch on Facebook and Twitter

- Visit facebook.com/eplacementscot and 'like' our page

- Follow us on twitter - @eplacementscot

- You'll be kept up to date with new placements as and when they become live on our website

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Next Steps: Register on the Website

- Review your CV, get professional input from a Careers Advisor

- Register, complete the profile, upload your CV and receive emails with vacancies that meet your criteria

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