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Dr Colin Smith

Shaping the stars of tomorrow
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

www.e-placementscotland.com
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.
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 interpersonal skills
• increased confidence within the world of work
• networking opportunities with a wide range of employers
• improved job opportunities on graduation

www.e-placementscotland.com
Why promote placements?

Computing Degree + Industrial Experience = Excellent Career Prospects

Dr Bill Mitchell FBCS FHEA CITP
Director, BCS Academy of Computing
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
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
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
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!
How do I apply?

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