



Durham
University

Placement Years

Faculty Placement Manager Team
(Careers & Enterprise Centre)

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What is a Placement Year?

- Sometimes known as a 'Year in Industry' or 'Industrial Placement Year'
- Full time, professional level work experience (for a minimum of 40 weeks)
- Usually taken between 2nd and 3rd year*
- Formally assessed – typically on a pass or fail basis*

*with the exception of some Science programmes



Why do a Placement Year?

- Enhance your CV so that it stands out for graduate applications
- Gain essential personal and employability skills
- Trial a career – discover what you enjoy and don't enjoy
- Grow your network
- Earn a salary
- Discover a new city or country





46% of Placement Year students
at HIGHERiN's top student employers were
offered graduate roles.

(HIGHERiN, 2025)



Why do a Placement Year at Durham?

Excellent employer relationships – both within the Faculty Placement team and wider Careers Service, but also within academic departments

A full programme of support from the Faculty Placement Team; 1:1s, bespoke workshops, drop-in sessions, newsletters, from 'An Introduction to Placement Years' through to 'Pre-Placement Briefings'

Durham students (and therefore graduates) have excellent job prospects and our strength in preparing students for graduate careers also saw us named **joint runner-up for University of the Year for Graduate Employment 2026**.

The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide



How much are students paid on a Placement Year?

- Typically, at least National Minimum Wage; often £24,000 - £26,000 (taxed, pro rata)
- Varies usually by industry; can be £19,000 or as high as £60,000 (certain investment banks)
- Students pay a reduced Tuition Fee (20% of your regular fee) whilst on Placement. Students remain a registered Durham student during the year
- We don't promote unpaid Placement Years - but will not prevent students from taking one if they wish to and are able to fund it
- Home students can also apply for a reduced Maintenance Loan (whether their role is paid or unpaid)



Who can do a Placement Year?

- **ALL** undergraduate courses offer the Placement Year degree variant (except for language programmes) and you make the choice to do a placement in your second year. (Language students have their own Year Abroad arrangements with MLAC)
- **ALL** students can take a Placement Year – including International students. The Placement Year becomes a fully-integrated part of a student's degree, so the UK Visas & Immigration service then sees an International student doing part of their degree, rather than trying to work more than the 20 hours per week permitted normally during term time. Our Immigration advice team will advise you on when and how to extend your Student Visa to cover your Placement Year and your final year of undergraduate study.



Where can you go on placement?



Digital



Nottingham Forest
Community Trust



★ RATEMY
PLACEMENT



JACK
RUSSELL
MUSIC



CREATION.co



Home Office



Bank of England

L'ORÉAL®



A KINGSLEY GATE
COMPANY



LATHAM &
WATKINS LLP



NHS

Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children
NHS Foundation Trust

NORDOFF
ROBBINS
Life-changing music

LifeArc

Reckitt
Benckiser



pwc



IBM



Science & Technology
Facilities Council



BLOOMSBURY



timberseed

What support do you receive during the Placement Year application process?

Faculty Placement Manager

Offer 1:1 appointments, workshops and in-department events to support students in securing a quality-assured placement.

Communications

Closed LinkedIn group where we publish “harder to find” placements, weekly newsletter and dedicated SharePoint site for pre and on placement support

Employer Events

Careers and Enterprise Centre has hundreds of employers on campus for fairs, recruitment events and skills workshops such as “mock interviews”

Quality Assurance

Placements have a dual approval process to make sure opportunities are safe and are at the appropriate level. Organisations must sign a placement contract with the University.

Practical Support

Pre-placement briefings to ensure you are prepared for your placement and also connect you with other outgoing students.

On-placement support

You will be allocated a placement tutor during your time on placement. They will be your point of contact at the University and visit you in person or virtually



Questions?

Contact our team:

placement.years@durham.ac.uk