



Durham
University

Placement Years

The Faculty Placement
Manager Team

Careers & Enterprise Centre

What is a Placement Year?

- Taken between your 2nd and 3rd year (aside from some science subjects)
- Minimum 40 weeks full time professional level work experience.
- Formally assessed on a pass or fail basis (aside from Chemistry). This means it does not affect the overall classification.



Why do a Placement Year?


- Enhance your CV
- Trial your future career
- Increase your academic prospects
- Earn money
- Discover a new city or country



How much are students paid on a Placement Year?

- At least National Minimum Wage, normally about £21k - £26k (taxed, pro rata).
- Some Placement Years pay £19k, some as much as £60k+ (certain investment banks).
- You pay a reduced Tuition Fee during the Placement Year of 20% of your normal Fee as you must remain a registered DU student during the year (the PY becomes an assessed part of your degree).
- We don't promote unpaid Placement Years but will not prevent you from taking one if you can afford to do so (we have no funding to replace a salary).
- Home students can also apply for a reduced Maintenance Loan, whether their role is paid or unpaid.





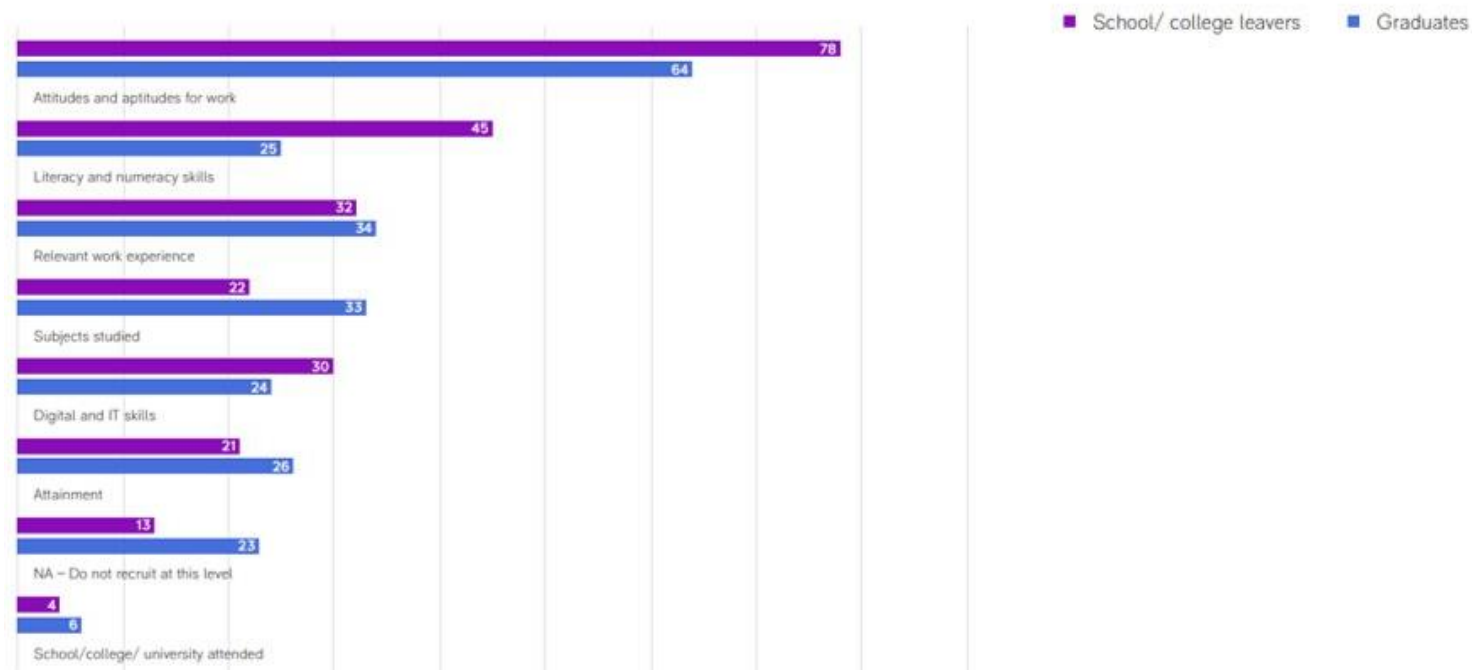
A quarter of graduates hired in 2022 were recruited through employers' work experience programmes.


(High Fliers, 2023)



What do employers value?

Exhibit 4.5 Most important factors in recruiting school/ college leaders and graduates (% respondents)*





**Last year, 46% of graduate hires
in RateMyPlacement's Best
Student Employers were
students who completed an
internship or placement at that
company during their degree.**

(RateMyPlacement)



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.

The following courses all have placement year or with industry as an option on UCAS:

- Accounting and Finance
- Accounting and Management
- Business and Management
- Chemistry
- Economics
- Economics with Management
- Finance
- Marketing and Management



Where can you go on placement?



Digital



Nottingham Forest
Community Trust



★ RATEMY
PLACEMENT



JACK
RUSSELL
MUSIC



CREATION.co



Home Office



King of England



L'ORÉAL®



Reckitt
Benckiser



pwc



LATHAM &
WATKINS LLP



NHS
Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children
NHS Foundation Trust



Science & Technology
Facilities Council



B L O O M S B U R Y

NORDOFF
ROBBINS
Life-changing music

LifeArc



BRITISH
COUNCIL



timberseed





Placement Years at Durham University

What support do you receive during the placement process?

Faculty Placement Manager

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

Employer Events

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

Practical Support

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

Communications

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

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.

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 if not in the UK

Scan to download our Placement Year Guide



Applying for my placement year

Jessica Walker – E-Commerce Sales Placement



Started applying in early second year, using Durham's careers portal, LinkedIn and Indeed



Attended CV, cover letter, and interview workshops through the University



Applied to multiple roles and secured my placement by January



My Placement Experience



E-commerce Sales & Marketing team at Stada, based in Huddersfield



Typical day involved sales analysis, campaign coordination, and team collaboration



Highlights included presenting campaign ideas and planning internal events



Key Benefits of my Placement Year

- 👜 Gained real industry experience and boosted professional confidence
- 🎓 Returned to final year more focused, with a clearer career direction
- 💡 Developed transferable skills – communication, problem-solving, and time



Questions?

Want to find out more?

Contact our team at
placement.years@durham.ac.uk

