“IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO HAVE A FASHION & TEXTILE BUYING STUDENT FROM HUDDERSFIELD JOIN OUR TEAM, SHE IS THE BEST INTERN THAT WE HAVE EVER WORKED WITH.”

Madeline King, Merchandising Director
Ferragamo Retail Taiwan Limited
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What is a placement year?

A placement year is an excellent opportunity for you to gain first hand experience in the industry of your creative field before you graduate. The placement year is for third year students which consists of either finding employment with an established company or setting up your own business, also known as the Enterprise Placement Year. You are not limited to one placement, but must complete a minimum of 48 weeks.

Why?

A lot of companies will pay a salary, which means you could earn money whilst you gain experience.

You could gain a solid, real world reference to offer potential employers after graduation. Some companies even offer their placement students full–time employment once they graduate.

You are able to learn about your chosen discipline from a working perspective, gain insight into the industry and develop your general business and professional skills.

It provides the opportunity to develop an advantage over other graduates who do not have any relevant work experience when you enter the graduate job market.

You will be better equipped to make informed decisions about your future career path.

Where?

Part of the placement year experience is contacting companies yourself which you may be interested in working for. These companies can be local, national or overseas. Below is a list of companies where previous students have undertaken their placement year.

- Central School of Ballet, London
- Ferrious, Manchester
- Global One Pak, Hyde
- Marc Jacobs, New York
- Opera Australia, Sydney
- Lemoncake, Amsterdam
- Architecture & Design Partnership, Holmfirth
- Oxfam, Batley
- Nestlé, Singen
During my placement year I worked for Christopher Kane in London for 11 months which proved to be invaluable as I was given more responsibility due to being on a longer placement and was able to integrate across various areas of the business. I worked in the Pattern Studio, cutting samples and editing patterns, then interned for three months assisting a fabric technician and carrying out a range of errands.

I was able to work backstage at three of Christopher Kane’s shows at London Fashion Week and also twice at the Showroom in Paris. I was also given the chance to fly to Italy to collect pieces for the shows which was a fabulous hands-on experience. I absolutely loved this internship, the team were so welcoming and being so involved in London Fashion Week and working in the Paris showroom was an amazing experience.

I also worked for Georgia Hardinge for three months, I gained valuable experience and information regarding bespoke pleating and sculptural designs. It was really fun and useful to see how different companies run.

My placement year has been incredibly rewarding and important and will have a very positive effect on my future job prospects in the fashion industry.
Josh Wilde  
Photography BA(Hons)

“A VALUABLE YET CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE.”

Placement year has definitely been a valuable yet challenging experience. It has refined my photographic knowledge and skills, which has helped me form a passionate desire to graduate into a confident commercial photographer.

I secured a placement with Set Visions, a studio specialising in commercial and room set photography. After a few weeks I quickly began to feel part of the team and was assigned my first live project, subsequently I have worked on many other shoots, producing the basis of my portfolio.

I now freelance for the studio whilst undertaking my final year. I have gained various transferable skills that have truly excelled my imagery to give me the determination to flourish in my final year.
Support

**Placement/Careers drop-in sessions**
Placement/Careers drop-in sessions offer help with CV and letter writing and advice on placements and careers every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during term time, 2:00 – 3:00pm in the Creative Arts Building Atrium and 12:00 – 1:00pm in Queen St. Studios reception.

**Course visits**
Each course will have a visit from the placement team at the beginning of your second year. This will include introducing themselves, discussing the placement process and answering any queries or worries you may have.

**Placement visits**
The support doesn’t stop once you go out onto your placement year – twice a year one of the placement officers will contact you to check everything is going well and to answer any questions or queries you may have. Alongside this an academic tutor will come to visit you in your place of work regarding your time on placement.

**Open door policy**
The placement team have an open door policy every weekday (08:30am – 4:30pm) for all students with any questions or queries regarding their placement year. You can also pre-arrange a meeting with one of the team by contacting them by email or phone.

**International Placement Event**
In the second term of second year the team hold the International Placement Event, in conjunction with the University’s Careers and Employability Service to cater for international students wanting to do a placement and also any student thinking of going overseas to gain experience in their field.
Frequently asked questions

Do I pay tuition fees for the placement year?
Yes, there is a significantly reduced fee for UK and EU students, please check with the placement team the fee for the current year.

Who can I speak to about my student loan?
You are still eligible to apply for half your maintenance loan whilst on your placement year. Speak to the student loan company, or your Local Education Authority if you have any issues. You may be eligible for other funds. If you have financial problems contact Student Finance: +44 (0) 1484 473904.

What if I have a problem whilst on placement?
We are always available to try and help. Please do not hesitate to call +44 (0) 1484 471091. Also the Students Union can give advice and help on a variety of issues. Call +44 (0) 1484 473446 or visit: www.huddersfieldstudent.com

Do I have to pay Council Tax?
Whilst on your placement year, you are still classed as a full-time student and therefore exempt from Council Tax (unless you are living in a house with full-time employees who are not students). Council Tax Exemption forms are available from iPoint. Student Services can give you advice on what conditions may require you to pay.

Do I have to pay Tax?
This will depend on your earnings, but most placement students will pay some tax and national insurance. If your earnings for the year fall below the personal allowance you may be able to claim some or all of the tax paid back.

Can I still access my Unimail while I am away from University?
Yes. Various information about your Unimail account can be found on the University website. Details of how to set Unimail up on a smartphone are also on the website.
I was employed as a junior interior designer in the 3D department at I–AM Associates in London for the full year. I was responsible for the samples library, creating samples and moodboards, assisting other designers with their workloads, producing plans and visuals and meeting with suppliers and building subsequent relationships.

Working for I–AM helped me understand the design process in an industry setting, expanded my knowledge of materials and design software and analysing drawings details. I was given many opportunities to gain more experience and took up more responsibilities and projects as the year went on, I even ran some projects independently. One such project being the interior of a restaurant which I managed entirely on my own.

I had an amazing experience and it was definitely worth the effort of simply creating a portfolio and having an interview. The experience has prepared me well for my final year and for working in the industry following graduation.
Zoe Wood
Interior Design BA(Hons)

My year was at Portland Design based in London. I thoroughly enjoyed my time, it was an incredible experience and has contributed massively to my future as a designer, both professionally and personally.

I was involved in all areas of design projects, gained a vast amount of knowledge, expanded on my technical skills whilst working on small individual projects too. The company was busy – I worked a lot of overtime but I enjoyed the work I was doing, the team and work ethic of the company that much I didn’t mind. I was asked to stay an extra month and did so as I really did not want to leave.

I was integrated completely into the Interiors team and felt very much a part of the team and will definitely be keeping in touch with the company during my final year. My time at Portland has prepared me for my final year of study and really motivated me further to succeed in my studies.
Not only is the placement year a perfect opportunity to gain real-world experience, students have the possibility of undertaking their placement year overseas in either Europe or further afield. The map shows various companies and countries previous students have undertaken placement opportunities.

**Placements overseas**
1. ICS, *Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania*
2. KSR International Design, *Hong Kong*
3. Naghma, *Karachi, Pakistan*
4. Opera House, *Sydney, Australia*
5. Souraya, *Sydney, Australia*
7. Ferragamo, *Taiwan, China*
8. IVHQ, *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

**Placements in Europe**
9. Bohoboco, *Warsaw, Poland*
10. Christopher Kane, *Paris, France*
11. Farfetch, *Braga, Portugal*
12. Karl Lagerfeld, *Amsterdam, Netherlands*
13. Maiami, *Berlin, Germany*
14. McOs Vintage, *County Donegal, Ireland*
15. Margarita Danou Architects, *Cyprus*
16. EY Studio, *Vicenza, Italy*
17. Nestlé, *Singen, Germany*
Placements in the UK

AMCA Architects, Dundee
Bright White Limited, York
Burberry, Keighley
Central School of Ballet, London
Ferrious Limited, Manchester
Innocent Chaos, Belfast
Jimmy Choo, London
Neil Wilson Design, Newcastle
Opera North, Leeds

Plum Pudding Publishing, Surrey
Set Visions, Bradford
Studio Distract, Manchester
House of Illustration, London
Boohoo, Manchester
McQ by Alexander McQueen, London
Vivienne Westwood, London
Paul Smith, London
Howdens Joinery, Goole
I worked for a small start-up company in Amsterdam. Tilt Amsterdam are involved in video-branded content production and I was given a lot of responsibility right from the start. The team I worked with were very focused on supporting me and developing my skills to ensure that I got the most out of my experience with them.

I began by working with and shadowing the Motion Designer and by the end of my time with Tilt I was producing work independently and liaising directly with clients.

Although all of my colleagues could speak English I was interested in learning Dutch so I taught myself the basics and picked up the language from people I worked with. I was given Erasmus funding of €350 per month which helped towards my accommodation and living expenses whilst in Amsterdam.

I later moved to Mainframe in London to gain more experience working with a large company which was a very enjoyable time, however I found that working for a smaller company gave me a wider range of tasks to undertake and was able to build on my skills better than working within a larger company.
Rebekah Barker
Costume with Textiles BA(Hons)

I worked with 14 different companies throughout my placement year including The Royal Shakespeare Company, The Royal Opera House and Sydney Opera House.

Each company gave me a different experience. Whilst working at The Royal Shakespeare Company I was involved in the printing and breaking down of costumes and spent time in the womenswear department, and was also required to alter costumes, construct new ones and became involved in their backstage dressing during performances.

At The National Film and Television School I was the costume designer, buyer and dresser for the actors involved in two short films they were making. I moved to BBC Wales and gained valuable experience on the importance of continuity between scenes/wardrobe and the processes involved in costuming a soap opera.

My placement year was a fantastic experience and I gained invaluable knowledge and real-time experience in my chosen field. It has been an insightful year which has validated my career choice, inspired me and prepared me for working in the industry.

“My placement year was a fantastic experience.”
As part of the programme we were awarded a Proof of Concept grant backed by Santander, and later in the year we were also successful in receiving a business start-up grant to help with setting up our business. We can still have up to five years support from the Enterprise Team at the University after we have graduated to help us to continue and develop our business.

Although we were nervous to some extent about learning all the elements needed to run a business as we had no prior experience, the expertise of the Enterprise Team along with the fantastic facilities of the Duke of York Young Entrepreneur Centre offered invaluable support to us. The whole experience has built our confidence, enabled us to start our own business and work alongside students from other Schools within the University.
I did a 12 month placement at New Look Head Office in London as a Buyers Admin Assistant for the Core Ladies Outwear department. I was responsible for managing the critical path for various styles. This role involved such tasks as ensuring the buying cycle ran smoothly for many outerwear styles and being in daily contact with our suppliers via email and telephone. I also worked in the sample room ensuring that samples were where they should be at the appropriate time, whether this was for supplier meetings or meetings with upper management.

One of the main focuses of the team I worked with was the bomber jacket range and it was amazing to see people walking around wearing the jackets and coats I had a hand in buying for the company. I gained hands on experience in the industry with one of the leading fast fashion brands in the country. I would definitely recommend pursuing a placement year as this has had a very positive impact on my final year work and I have gained many contacts to call upon for assistance with my assignments.
Kathryn Lund has been awarded the highest bursary available of £2,500 from the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters.

Kathryn undertook a placement year at Manchester-based, fashion supplier Visage and her winning designs were inspired by the bright colours and patterns of the temples in Thailand where she had spent a summer teaching English.

Because of the experience gained during her placement year in the menswear knit department of Visage, she was therefore able to come back and use the University’s knitting machines with increased confidence and capability.

“I was given training on the Japanese Shima Seiki CAD-based knitting machine at Visage, we have one at the University, so I was able to be more creative in my project and because I showed the Framework Knitters I could use traditional, as well as the high-tech knitting machines, this demonstrated my skills and versatility.”

Kathryn is a great example of how a placement year can benefit towards your degree. Not only did she learn valuable skills which has brought her success, but has been awarded the prize of £2,500 enabling her to be more creative with her final-year project and to show future employers.
I undertook a 12 month placement at Camira Fabrics, a textile mill in Mirfield, as a Quality Technician. My role covered such tasks as testing fabrics, customer complaints, shade approvals, dealing with quality issues and working on customer improvements.

I had a very interesting placement year and was given a lot of freedom within the company. I was trusted to make big decisions on my own and was very involved with the work right from the beginning. This was a great aspect, as I felt I was not treated as a student but more as a valuable employee and was also called upon to cover for a full-time employee who had left to work elsewhere.

My placement year has been very worthwhile, has built my confidence and there were great opportunities for networking.
For my placement year I returned to Slovakia and worked for Anima Technika s.r.o, a small company that was just starting up. I was given a range of tasks to do including working on visuals, aesthetics of the product, packaging design, graphics for the app and website, 3D modelling, animation and printing, model making and problem solving.

Most of the team were 20–30 years of age so the atmosphere was very lively and the team were all enthusiastic. I really enjoyed the fact that I was part of a company that was just starting out and has the potential to expand and become something really big; I felt I was making a valuable contribution right from the very beginning and am looking forward to seeing how the company grows.

I have developed my skills and gained invaluable experience that I do not think I would have got had I been working for a big name company, as there were fewer staff and I had a wider range of tasks to undertake. I learned many new skills and developed the skills I had learned during my first two years at University. The placement year has built up my confidence and made me eager for my final year.
Placement team

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Fees and Funding

Students have access to various funds during their placement year. The hardship fund is a sum of money given to the University to help those who are in financial difficulties. Erasmus funding is available to those who take-up placements in the EU to help with travels costs and accommodation. All students also have the opportunity to receive half of their normal student loan whilst on a placement year. For more information on finance, please contact:  
studentfinancialsupport@hud.ac.uk  
+44 (0) 1484 471130

Online Resources

ePlacements is the electronic system for advertising placement opportunities to second year students. Your login is your student ID number without the ‘U’ i.e. 1237263. Your default password is “password” which you should change upon logging in. You can access ePlacements through the following link:  
halo.hud.ac.uk/eplacements

You can find more advice and information on UniLearn under the placement section.
WE ARE VERY KEEN TO CONTINUE OUR GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH HUDDERSFIELD UNIVERSITY AND ARE EXCITED ABOUT OUR NEXT STUDENT. HAVING THE PLACEMENT STUDENTS REALLY ENHANCES OUR TEAM—WE MAKE SURE THEY INTERACT WITH SITES AND CLIENTS AND GET A FULL EXPERIENCE.”

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