Placement Scotland

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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
• wider job opportunities on graduation
Jacqueline Craig, 
e-Placement of the Year Award Winner

“I have gained a variety of new skills from the projects that I have been involved in, and I have become confident about my versatility. This placement has really opened up my eyes to all the different areas of work that I could pursue and it has completely changed the way I see my future career.”

One Year placement with the Infrastructure Team at Life Technologies, Renfrewshire

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

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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
Placement at Aberdeen University

- CS50IP Industrial Placement
- Opportunity to graduate MSci with Industrial Placement
- 9-12 months
- Between level 9 & 10 or after level 10
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.
- You can use it to find a placement for CS50IP Industrial Placement.
- Or else you can use it to find a placement to do on top of your studies, e.g. summer. Many are also part-time and flexible.

www.e-placementscotland.com
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 – since you are assessed following Industrial Placement we count this as a ‘return to study’
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 either **12 months full time**, or **full-time for three months** over the summer.
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?
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
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!
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

Placement is a guaranteed way to stand out from the crowd

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

- Register, complete the profile, upload your CV and receive emails with vacancies that meet your criteria
  
  www.e-Placement Scotland.com

- Remember - review your CV before pressing ‘apply’!