

There is so much you can say about being on a placement, and I am only just over six months in....

Despite how much I love being at University, the one thing I quickly learnt from being on placement – two years at University does not teach you the amount you learn whilst being in the industry for just six months.

I have worked on a number of different projects from representing Wychavon in the local area on our famous coach tours, when Sir Terry Wogan came to film on the Blossom Trail, and being an exhibitor at events to help promote our festivals and events.

The team are brilliant, especially Angela, I am completely treated like a member of the 'family' and feel I can offer my input as and when it is needed.

I have completely changed as a person, being in such a demanding working environment has really given me the push I needed. I feel a much stronger and driven person. It has transformed me tremendously. I am now more confident in my work, and know I have some fantastic experience that I will continue to refer back to with every future job I have. Everything I have learnt from Angela will benefit me hugely throughout my life and I can't thank her enough for everything I have learnt – personally and professionally!

These are all aspects University can't teach, nothing prepares you for working life whilst studying – than a placement.

Kat

Experience - The experience during my placement was invaluable; I was genuinely shocked at how much I learnt and personally developed during my placement. No lecture or module can provide you with these lessons or allow you to develop such skills.

Networking - After I graduated I managed to get a job working for the National Trust, this was due to the recommendation of Angela Tidmarsh and from working with various companies during my placement at Wychavon District Council.

Fantastic position and organisation – The position within Wychavon District Council is very unique, such as working and organising the Great British Asparagus Festival and the Awarding wining plum Festival. During my placement I was also able to take part in exiting PR Stunts, which included a visit to the House of Commons, delivering the Vales Finest Asparagus to Buckingham Palace and working with many great groups of people. Since putting my placement on my LinkedIn profile, I have been contacted by numerous companies interested in my experience and skill set; I now have a management role within a Global Technology company.

Overall, I felt that my placement defiantly set me up for my career; I developed new skills, networked with some inspiring people and learnt the protocols within corporate environments.

If it wasn't for my placement, I wouldn't have the career that I do today.

Amy

Being involved in a placement scheme has been one of the most useful experiences during my university study which has helped to shape my current career and the person I am today. They offer invaluable experience to both parties; the student is able to learn from real life work experience and both in the other direction as the employer is able to gain fresh insight to the current teachings, industry trends and technology.

I have been lucky enough to experience several placements, the last in which I was offered a full time job after University and now have been at the company for three years. This gave my employers the understanding of how important it is to have involvement with the next wave of graduates coming into the employment market I now manage my own placement student within the company, which has just become an official and ongoing position.

Carly

“Wychavon District Council - being labelled as a “Boring” place to work is definitely an outsiders’ point of view, but it is far from that. As I had taken a Sport Development course at University it could be hard to see the link between that and the Tourism & Regeneration Assistant role, however so many things that I learnt from my time there made me understand that so much of it can be transferred

Whilst working with Angela and the rest of the Regeneration team I was fortunate enough to take part in a number of marketing campaigns to promote the local area such as website, social media, print material, programmes etc. Without having such amazing support from Angela while I was learning it is unlikely that I would have been able to enjoy my placement as much as I did.

What was also amazing whilst being at Wychavon was being treated like a ‘proper’ employee as opposed to just another placement student! I am very grateful to everybody at Wychavon, in particular Angela for making my placement so enjoyable.”

Chris

Best job I've ever had! (For the variety and fun!), I talk about it in every interview and it really goes down well, they love hearing all about it

It has got me where I am now! Without it, I wouldn't have had half the great jobs on my CV since! (The experience can't be matched elsewhere as it's so varied) and the support from you and the team was fab!

The placement year was worth every penny spent at university. That's where I learnt everything. The books are nothing in comparison!

Emily

During my second year at University I struggled immensely in trying to find a placement year but I was determined to find one having being told the many benefits it provides for both personal development and career prospects in the future. After MONTHS of searching I secured a placement with Wychavon District Council as the Tourism and Regeneration Assistant with a fantastic team and an amazing line manager!

The experience I gained from my placement with Wychavon District Council enabled me to secure a two-year graduate scheme with Halford's in which I will be working in the marketing, buying and digital teams. Without my placement experience I would not have been able to secure such an opportunity, which will allow me to prosper and develop as an individual within the retail sector.

If you are considering taking a placement year I would strongly recommend you apply for the opportunities at Wychavon District Council in which you will work with a fantastic team, be entrusted with multiple responsibilities, have hands on experience of tourism, communications and marketing and enhance your employability for the future.

Katie

“Having the opportunity to apply for a role within a District Council was a great interest to me. Having read the job description, the roles and responsibilities were extremely diverse to what was appearing in private sector opportunities, and it was this factor that swayed me to applying.

The actual placement itself was extremely interesting primarily down to the diversification between jobs. From an events perspective, there are many opportunities to input, alter and implement your own ideas into the equation and having a fresh view is often extremely valued as events are constantly looking to be freshened up. There is a lot of ‘hands-on’ work which is invaluable as it provides a different perspective to the academic side experienced at University. Actually being out on the ground, talking to people, dealing with issues in real-time all add experience which just can't be replicated in a lecture theatre.

In regards to work, there is a broad range of requirements ranging from sales, marketing, design, creative writing, website development, social media, and economic development tasks amongst others. Understanding the role tourism / events has within a local community is an experience that wouldn't be achieved with other roles, as naturally the public sector are looking to improve areas rather than for personal gain.

I consider a placement at Wychavon DC to be invaluable for learning development and for broadening ones understanding of councils and the generic public sector. It will help change negative stereotypes and break down unhelpful stigmas attached to local authorities which would put an individual at an advantage over someone who has solely experienced a private sector establishment.”

Steve



