



University of
Bedfordshire

Bedford and Luton

University of Bedfordshire **International Students' Internships Scheme** A guide for employers



About the International Students' Internships Scheme

The University of Bedfordshire has launched a new internships scheme that will generate 1,500 workplace opportunities for international postgraduate students and offer local and national businesses the chance to work with enthusiastic, well-qualified and dedicated individuals.



The national scheme is designed to pair international postgraduate students with employers who are looking for a cost-effective and efficient resource to boost their business.

How the scheme works

- International postgraduate students with an outstanding record of academic achievement will be encouraged to apply for the scheme, to create a pool of high-quality, motivated candidates
- The University has dedicated International Internships Managers, who will:
 - Pre-screen all the applicants, and coordinate pre-placement coaching
 - Handle all administration, legalities and payments
 - Match students' expertise with employer requirements
- Employers who require extra resource can return the enquiry form attached or complete an online form at www.beds.ac.uk/internationalstudentplacements

The **benefits** for your **business**

Many companies have important projects which have been shelved because of lack of time or resources – our internship scheme could be the answer to that problem.

There are a number of financial, cultural and business development benefits:

- **Light-touch administration** – visa and payroll administration will be handled by University-based International Internships Managers
- **High calibre people** – all candidates will hold a first degree, typically a First Class award, which can be matched to your organisation
- **Flexibility with low cost** – short-term projects could be resourced without the high cost of external consultants or temporary agency staff
- **Knowledge injection** – fresh ideas in your workplace
- **Diversity** – improved cross-cultural communication and awareness
- **Growth** – smarter access routes to overseas markets
- **No commitment** – new members of staff or new positions can be trialled by extended interview without creating a long-term commitment

Possible projects could include, but are not limited to:

- IT solutions
- Translation or proofing
- Energy or conservation studies
- Web design or usability testing
- Market research
- Technical solutions and testing

53% of our international postgraduate students specialise in Business-related subjects; **30%** in Computing and Sciences; and **15%** in Health and Social Sciences

“I found it a real pleasure – the interns were helpful, very polite and their attention to detail was really superb. I felt they would go the extra mile to do the work, out of professionalism.”

Susan Hidirian, Space Planning and Utilisation Manager, University of Bedfordshire

Watch a video of our interview with Susan and hear more of what she had to say...



Scan the code with your smart phone or visit uob.im/uobinterns

What our interns say...

The University's excellent employability record and strong links with business are attracting more and more international students, who contribute millions to the local economy during their stay. The University wants to ensure that our students leave the UK having broadened their experience and knowledge of British culture and business. This is what some of last year's interns had to say:



“The work placement has been really helpful. I have developed my communication skills, problem solving, and it taught me how to survive in a foreign culture! It has helped me with the job interviews I have had since.”

Rameez Durrani (pictured second left)

“I enjoyed it very much. This work placement enabled me to communicate with a wide range of different people from several different cultures, which was quite interesting.”

Sun Jiabao (pictured far left)

Our successes

- 90 per cent of our graduates are in work or further study six months after graduating (*Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education 2010*)
- One of our students, Radu Razvan Cotosman, was named International Student Employee of the Year in the 2010 *National Association of Student Employment Services (NASES)* awards, and another, Vanya Popova, was nominated
- The previous year, another of our students, Ashwini Arcot, was International Student Employee of the Year for London and the South East, and was runner-up for the national title