Dyson School of Design Engineering
Industrial Placements
How your company could benefit:
The Dyson School of Design Engineering represents some of the top design engineering talent in the UK. Our Industrial Placement programme offers your organisation:

• An effective vehicle for recruiting our top graduates – recruiting a graduate who has worked with you already reduces your recruitment and training costs and may contribute to higher retention rates.
• A cost effective way of getting a project done at the highest technical standards.
• A way to exchange new ideas combined with fresh enthusiasm and knowledge of some of the latest technology.
• The opportunity to encourage and invest in design engineers of the future.

How to advertise a placement:
Once you've decided that you want to host a design engineering placement student:

1. Contact us to discuss the options and finalise details.
2. Your placement advert will be loaded onto our central database.
3. Applications will open in October and you will begin to receive enquiries from students looking for placements in the following April.

The recruitment process is at the full discretion of the company, and you will have complete freedom to use internal company procedures to process, interview and select appropriate applicants.

If required we can support this with screening and arranging interviews here at Imperial to tailor your recruitment process. Just talk to us to find out more.

KEY PLACEMENT INFORMATION

• Placements will last a total of 6 months from April to September each year.
• Students will be coming to the end of their third year of study when they leave for placement - equivalent to BEng graduate level.
• Students will be an integral member of your team, given responsibility for one or two larger scale projects.
• Students will be paid a reasonable wage for their time and contribution over the course of the placement.
The Design Engineering undergraduate MEng programme provides students with a solid foundation in a wide-range of traditional engineering disciplines and combines these with modules in design and business to produce engineers who are able to solve problems creatively and take products from the first stages of design right through to the market.

**Pragmatic Education:**
The course has a particularly strong focus on the communication and translation of engineering, and the majority of the students’ work is comprised of practical projects and industrially oriented modules.

Our students are highly capable and diverse, making them well suited for a range of different roles and sectors. We encourage them to have a breadth of interest and we’re looking for an equally broad range of companies - from start ups through to global corporations - to take them on.
We aim to make the placements process as simple and beneficial as possible for everyone involved, and the application process starts the first week of the academic year in October.

In order to have access to a wider range of candidates, you are advised to advertise as early as possible, with many placement students across Imperial receiving offers before Christmas.
Terms and Conditions
Placement students are paid for their work, although the College does not stipulate a rate of pay. Other statutory terms and conditions will also apply, including holiday leave allowance. These conditions will be part of the contract of employment agreed between the company and their employee (the student).
We will also require you complete a placement provider form, and ensure the placement meets Imperial's placement learning policy.

Project/Job Description
Since the industrial placement is a compulsory element of the MEng degree, we need to ensure that the type of work the students will be undertaking is relevant to their studies. Therefore, before we can advertise your placement opportunities, we require a project/job description to review.

The student is required to work on one or two projects rather than a large number of smaller tasks. We realise, however, that a detailed job description may not be available in advance of the Placement, so a brief description of the company/department and typical projects the student will be involved in may be sufficient.

The work should be at graduate entry level and must have a strong focus on the application of engineering/design thinking and embodiment to ensure it is educationally advantageous.

Recruitment and Selection
We want to ensure companies maintain complete control over the recruitment of their placement student, and therefore responsibility for managing applications, interviews and offers lies with the company.
If required however, we can support this with screening and arranging interviews here at Imperial to tailor your recruitment process.

Tutor Visits
In May and September the student’s Tutor and/or the Industrial Liaison Officer will visit the company. During these visits they will hold informal meetings with the student’s line manager and/or mentor to assess the student’s achievements, plus the company’s assessment of the student and the quality of the placement to create a progress report.

Company Assessment
Assessment of the student’s contributions and achievements by a company supervisor during the placement is also desirable. Towards the end of the placement we ask hosts to conduct a performance review meeting with the student where they complete a short form on the student’s performance. In addition, we ask that hosts facilitate a presentation where the student can tell a panel of company representatives about their contributions.

Academic Assessment
The students will be required to submit two reports during their placement - one at the end of June in the middle of the placement, and one during September at the end of the placement. These have no strict format or content, and instead we ask the student’s to leverage existing company reporting procedures and documentation formats to describe the scope of their work. The reports will be reviewed by internal College examiners and will be treated as confidential to the company.

Exhibition
When the students return to start their final year of study at Imperial, we will hold an exhibition of the work they have conducted whilst on placement to celebrate their achievements. Placement companies will be invited to attend to see the scope of work produced and meet the students entering their third year who will be looking for placements in the year ahead.

For any questions, and to discuss options for recruiting a Design Engineering placement student, please don’t hesitate to get in contact. Details are on the back page of this booklet.
More About Design Engineering

We believe that the scope of a Design Engineer’s work can cover the nano-scale through to the system-view. As such, our students receive cutting edge research led teaching of the latest developments in technology and methods including additive manufacturing, human factors and mechatronics and robotics.

The programme structure is shown on the right hand side giving detail of the subjects covered across the degree. In the first two years the students gain a solid base through learning fundamental skills from across engineering and design. In the third and fourth years they are able to explore more advanced applications and specialist subjects, forming them into competent and creative designers - able to design advanced products, services, experiences and systems.

The Importance of Industrial Placements

The six month industrial placement is a compulsory part of the degree programme, and we believe it is one of the most important parts. It is a valuable opportunity for students to apply their skills and knowledge to real world challenges - and to understand the commercial context of their field of study.

To prepare them for this, the course has been designed with a substantial number of project and coursework modules of increasing scale throughout the programme. By the third year when they leave for placement, our students are at BEng equivalent level.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Year 1:
- Communication in Design
- Computing 1
- Context in Design Engineering
- Design 1
- Mechanics
- Energy in Design
- Electronics
- Engineering Mathematics
- Production and Materials

Year 2:
- Gizmo (Physical Computing)
- Big Data
- Computing 2
- Design 2
- Mechanics for Design Engineers
- Computer Aided Engineering
- Electronic Engineering for Design Engineers
- Engineering Design Project

Year 3:
- Engineering Design Management and Rationale
- Robotics 1
- Group Project - Design Engineering Futures
- Industry Placement
- Optional: Audio Experience Design
- Optional: Design Led Innovation and Enterprise
- Optional: Industrial Design

Year 4:
- Enterprise Management
- Enterprise Roll Out
- Solo Project
- Optional: AI Design
- Optional: Engineering Design Analysis
- Optional: Robotics 2
- Optional: Sustainable Product and Service Design
- Optional: Advanced Human Factors
Forms to be completed

What kind of companies host placement students?
Our students work within a wide range of companies of different sizes, working across different sectors in many different countries.

In the first year that Design Engineering Placements ran, we sent students to the UK, Germany, Spain, China, India and the United States - to work for a range of companies including Dyson, Brompton Bicycles, Jaguar Land Rover, Rolls Royce, ABB Robotics, Microsoft Lift, Fitch, Monokoto, Random International, Better Future Factory, Cambridge Consultants, and a series of local start ups and small companies around London.

Across the Faculty of Engineering, a high proportion of students are offered graduate jobs by their host placement company - indicating the success of the scheme for both the student and the employers.

What if you already know which student you want to recruit?
If you have already offered a placement to one of our students, then we offer a shortened process of approval. In these situations however, it is still important that companies complete a project/job description for the College to review, to ensure that the proposed work is educationally beneficial for the student.

What if you want to hire an overseas student?
As the Placement is a compulsory part of the degree programme, overseas students do not require a work permit or VISA to undertake an Industrial Placement with the UK.

For students heading abroad, there is usually a similar scheme in place at the destination country enabling students to conduct a work placement as part of their training.

How will your confidential information be treated?
We recognise that some projects may contain confidential information. As such, Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) may be put in place between a company, their employee (the student), and the School of Design Engineering.

Although all coursework will be treated as confidential, we require students to get their work approved by an internal manager from the company prior to submission. This enables the company to remove any commercially sensitive or inappropriate material.

This should not, however, prevent the student from discussing your organisation, the technologies they used or what they have learned from their work experience. Please remember that any presentations the student gives after their time with you also promotes your company to future applicants.

What are the next steps?
1. Get in contact to discuss your options and how your company might benefit from working with our Design Engineering students.
2. Attend one of our events occurring throughout the year, to meet our students and hear more about their work.
3. Review Imperial College’s Placement Learning Policy, and complete a Job Advert Proforma and Placement Provider Information Form.
4. Send these to Imperial for review to confirm suitability of the project/role.
5. Your placement advert will be added to our online system for the students to view - the system will be live from October to April each year.
6. The students will apply for the position through your own company processes as dictated.
7. Placements run from April to September each year.
CONTACT US
If you would like to advertise placement opportunities or you’d like to find out more about how your organisation can benefit from hosting placement students, please contact:

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