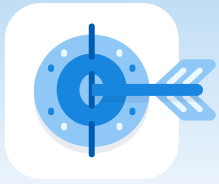




Professional Training Placements in the UK:

5 WAYS TO LEVERAGE INTERNSHIPS AND NETWORK IN UNIVERSITY



ONE OF THE PRIMARY GOALS

of the university experience is to prepare students for success in their post-graduation professional field of choice. As a counselor, you work hard to help your students prepare for the application process, navigate the countless university opportunities available to them, support them in a myriad of ways upon acceptance, and assist them with career planning.

Once your students have started on their university journey, it's important that they become their own advocates and take advantage of the many opportunities available to help them achieve their professional goals.

In today's ultra-competitive and global workplace, students should start focusing on their path to employability as early as possible. One of the best places to start is to gain real-world experience and make valuable professional connections through university internship programs. These programs give students a competitive edge while allowing them to explore different career fields, discover new possibilities, and increase their future employability potential.



International students who choose to attend school in the U.K. benefit from the availability of degree courses that include **Professional Training Placements** - time spent in an industry or business, away from the university. These programs give students real-time insights into how their coursework applies in an actual work environment, connect them with leaders and other professionals who can serve as mentors and references and can sometimes turn into full-time job opportunities.



The **University of Surrey** - one of the leading UK universities in the Cialfo network - has been successful in placing hundreds of students in various roles within their partner community of more than 2,300 national and international companies (including large and small companies spanning all business sectors). Some of these companies include globally renowned brands such as AstraZeneca, IBM, Hilton Hotels, and Tesla.

5 TIPS

The **University of Surrey** placements team offers the following five tips for students to best utilize the innovative opportunities available to them through internships and networking:

- 1 Start early.** If your students might be interested in pursuing a year long placement, they should start looking at fields of study and identify applicable courses as early as possible, starting in their first year.
- 2 Make the most of your university's Career Centre.** Students can get in-person guidance and assistance in sharpening such career preparation skills including resume writing, practice interviews, researching companies, job openings, and salary ranges.
- 3 Develop relationships with school and department tutors.** Once a student has been placed with a company, many schools match them with a school or department tutor to support them before, during, and after their placement period. These relationships are not only important during the internship, but tutors can also serve as key personal/academic references for students seeking jobs after graduation.
- 4 Use the university's online resources.** From training modules to sharpening language skills, most universities offer a vast array of online resources to equip students with the information they'll need for their internships and beyond.
- 5 Network with fellow students who have already participated in a placement program.** Reach out to peers who've recently completed a placement for tips on how to prepare, what to expect, company culture and communication styles, and even the little things like the best route to work and where to get the best coffee near your office!

So as you well know, it's never too early for students to start thinking about how they should be using all of the resources available to them - especially internships and networking - to stay ahead of the job market and set themselves up for future career success.

Many thanks to the Placements Team from the University of Surrey for sharing these tips with our community.

If you'd like to learn more about the programs on offer at the University of Surrey (named the UK's National Employability Award Winner for 3 consecutive years), please contact



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