

Work Placement Video Transcript

Kingston University London

Don't get lost in the maze of finding graduate employment

The Kingston University work placement programme can help

We negotiated the maze

Naomi: I'm about to start my 12 month work placement with Hogan Lovells a law firm in central London. I'll be working as a diversity assistant in the HR department.

Loell: I would say the benefits of having a placement are being able to interact with different types of people, people that you wouldn't normally have interacted with at uni or on a day-to-day basis.

Naomi: The placement team gave me so much support with my applications from constructing my CV to writing effective cover letters.

Loell: My advice to students would be to keep at it.

Naomi: I attended all the workshops and sessions that they put on and the most useful one for me was the speed interviewing, as it helped me to develop my confidence and learn new interview techniques as well.

Loell: It's a stage of learning, its development for you, the next application will be easier to do, the next interview will be that much easier.

Naomi: I found the assessment centres very exciting and challenging and with all the practice and help that I was given I found that I was very able to work well in a team and show my skills.

Loell: It's a lot of work for everyone to do but you will get it at the end if you put the effort in.

Naomi: I'm really excited about starting my placement and I think doing a work placement is really important to help make my CV stand out and to give me some great work experience for when I graduate.

Holly: I'm working at BSkyB. I feel that undertaking a placement is something that is extremely important as it's a really competitive market and I wanted to step out of uni not just with a degree but with invaluable experience, it's not just textbook knowledge, I get to put it completely into practice, I'm in a business environment and I learnt things I wouldn't have been able to learn just from a textbook.

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Vladimir: The best thing about the marketing placement is the variety of things that you can get involved in. For example, I've done a lot of work in managing social networks of the company. I've done a lot of design work in Photoshop, been involved in publications.

Holly: I feel that by undertaking a placement it gives me a huge competitive edge against students that have just come out of university with a degree.

Vladimir: The placement has helped me to understand how a marketing department works in the real world. It's also helped me to pick the right career path for me.

Holly: In this difficult market I appreciate my job placement even more because I've got real life experience, and I've made some great business contacts, and I've already got job opportunities lined up for when I graduate.

Vladimir: Overall, I think doing a placement was the best decision I ever made since I started my degree because it puts me one step forward than the rest of people.

Aakeel: Essentially I chose Fujitsu, as they allowed me to continue on the graduate schemes directly after university.

Nicola: I'm currently doing a placement at Hewlett Packard.

Aakeel: Essentially my role was working directly under my project manager and undertaking the roles and responsibilities that he wanted me to do and also gain experience directly under Prince 2 project manager. As well as undertaking my own project which essentially meant I was responsible for up to 50 engineers to start with.

Nicola: The placement has benefitted me in a number of ways, I've learnt how to deal with people of all different levels, I've learnt how to use all different Excel packages, all different Office packages and I've just really learnt how to organise my time well.

Aakeel: Coming back to university after my placement year, I found it relatively easy to adapt back to university life and put in practice which I'd learnt at Fujitsu into university working ways.

Nicola: I would highly recommend that anyone who has the opportunity to do a placement does one as I really feel it will benefit me in the future.

Aakeel: At Fujitsu we were taught to work towards deadlines and improve our time management, it's really helped my final year as I was able to produce my coursework and assignments in a more timely fashion. Having a job already lined up

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after I graduate was a definite luxury, I found that a lot of my friends were trying to study and find a job at the same time which added to the pressure of final year university, whereas I could just focus on my studies and take ease in the fact that I had a job a Fujitsu lined up in the field that I wanted to continue with.

Take the right steps to get out of the maze

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