



mechanical, aerospace  
and civil engineering

with industrial experience: **FAQs**

**When do I go on placement and how long does the placement last?**

To qualify for the with Industrial Experience degree, you must complete a minimum of 40 weeks in an engineering company. However, most placements are offered as 12-month internships in a company, and some placements are so successful that they are extended to last up to 15-months! You can choose to conduct your placement between Year 2 and Year 3, or Year 3 and Year 4. The majority of students take the latter option – companies tend to take on more 3rd year students due to that extra year of academic experience (equivalent to a BEng graduate).

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## What assistance will be given in obtaining a placement?

The University posts live vacancies on its Careers Service website: <http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/findjobs/> which are sent to them by recruiting companies. They will also post vacancies that are available every year (from the largest companies). Additionally, the careers service offers mock interviews and other such assistance to help you perform to your best ability during assessment centres.

The School of MACE (Mechanical, Aerospace and Civil Engineering) embeds 'Employability' throughout the curriculum. This means we will assess your learning outcomes with methods that will come in handy when being interviewed or assessed for a job – presentation skills, group work, oral questioning. We also run supplementary skills development sessions as part of your Academic Advisement – things like CV writing masterclasses, LinkedIn profile improvement sessions, and a Career Path development workshop. Our weekly MACE student newsletter also contains MACE-specific placement opportunities.

## Which companies can I work for and what does placement work involve?

The placement work can be wide ranging. It usually depends upon the size of the company. If you are offered a placement at a large manufacturing company such as Rolls-Royce, you will be embedded into a team and most likely be working on a particular part of the engine, e.g. 'Turbines'. Your responsibilities may not vary greatly, but you will be working towards a large long-term project with hundreds of other people. If instead you work in a small company such as a component supplier, equipment manufacturer or service provider, you may be given a much greater range of responsibilities and see a product go from drawing to production during the time

you are working there, and be exposed to more parts of the business.

It will also depend on the sector (rail, automotive, aerospace, manufacturing, nuclear, food etc) or the type of industry (secondary or tertiary). You are permitted to choose any company that will engage your engineering skills, and allow you to demonstrate competencies that are detailed in the UK Engineering Council Specification.

Current support package for industrial placement year (subject to change)

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Household income	Fee	Cash Bursary
Up to £25,000 p.a.	£1,850	£2,000
Between £25,001 and £35,000 p.a.	£1,850	£1,000
More than £35,000 p.a.	£1,850	£0

## How much will I be paid during the placement year?

This will vary from one company to the next, but a typical salary will be around £17-18,000, which is around two thirds of a graduate salary. Since you are still enrolled as a student of the University, you are eligible to the same benefits during your placement year, such as council tax exemption, income tax exemption, and free prescriptions.

## What support is provided by the University whilst I am on placement?

As you are still enrolled as a student, you are under our duty of care. You will be appointed a 'Academic Placement Supervisor' for the duration of your placement, who will act as a point of contact back to the School of MACE, and who will visit you at least once at your placement location, usually in September. This member of staff will report back to the Academic Lead for Employability in the School, who oversees the with Industrial Experience course. Additionally, the School of MACE runs a 'Mid-placement Seminar' in March, when all placement students return and give a short presentation on their placement to staff and undergraduate students. This is a good chance to touch base with the School and give you a chance to ask any questions about your return to the School in September.

## How is the placement year assessed?

All placement students are required to complete an Industrial Placement Report, which must evidence the skills you have practiced and any new competencies you have learnt, and must reflect on your professional development during your time in the company. Students are required to complete this in the format prescribed by the UK Engineering Council Specification, which categorises the core competencies that are required to be demonstrated for a professional engineer to achieve Chartered status. Chartered status takes time to achieve, and would typically be happen once you have gained professional experience in a company after graduation. However, your placement year can count towards this experience if

documented in the correct way.

The report is assessed by the Academic Lead for Employability in the School. There are no academic credits attached to the report, but to meet the accreditation requirements for the degree of with Industrial Experience, the criteria prescribed within the placement report guidelines must be met.

## What happens when I return to the University after completion of the placement year?

You would in welcome week and continue your degree, whether that be as a Year 3 student or Year 4 student, on the MEng course. In Welcome Week, we run a 'back to MACE' information session, to gently ease you back into academic life.

## What happens if I don't get a placement for year 3?

If you fail to secure a placement, then we transfer you on to the straight 'MEng' course. You continue into your 4th year and graduate as with the other students. You do not need to interrupt your studies.

## Will the course improve my employment prospects?

Absolutely. According to the Institute of Student Employers: "On average, UK-based employers convert over 42% of their placement year students into graduate employees" (2017). Additionally, our Destination of Leavers from Higher Education data (DLHE data, 2016/17 cohort) tells us that 100% of School of MACE students graduating from the with Industrial Experience courses are in full time jobs in engineering companies within 6 months of graduation. Anecdotally, we know that many companies offer our placement students employment on graduation. Some even sponsor students in their 4th year!