

## Industrial Placement Schemes

MEng | BSc wIE



'We can teach from our experience, but we cannot teach experience'

**The School of Computer Science** has a rich history of working with companies to balance our teaching of the foundational aspects of Computing with the latest experiences and techniques in industry.

**Our Industrial Placement Schemes** represents the biggest activity in this area, with around 50 students each year taking up both short-term and year long positions with organisations across the UK.

**Recruiting** students onto industrial placement schemes could be an effective way for your organisation to attract world-class candidates on graduation. This brochure attempts to answer any questions you might have about our placement schemes and sets out the range of options that are available to you.

## Why recruit a placement student?

The School of Computer Science here in Manchester is the oldest and largest in the UK, with a reputation as one of the world's leading centres of excellence in computing teaching and research. Consequently our students represent some of the world's top graduate talent. Benefits of recruiting one of our students include:

1. **Access** to a top quality student.
2. **Cost-effective resource** to deploy on core technical projects.
3. The opportunity to trial a student with the view to graduate recruitment.
4. **Access to new ideas**, enthusiasm and a fresh perspective on business problems.
5. **Quality students** guaranteed: placement opportunities are only offered to students who attain a first or second class result.

## What level of commitment is involved?

The School releases students for either year long industrial placements, or shorter term company projects, depending on their programme of study.

## What do we look for in a placement opportunity?

Placements suitable for the majority of our programmes will involve some level of development work, hardware, software or application. We like the students to get an opportunity to see during the placement how the development lifecycle works in the workplace and for most of them to get their hands dirty with **'real' coding**.

We do, however, also have students on joint degree programmes with Maths and Business Management and these students may be looking for a different type of experience during their placement year.

Aside from the technical development of the students skill set it is of great importance to us that the placement experience will offer all students an opportunity to gain an understanding of other transferable skills required to contribute to the working environment. We will look for evidence that whilst in placement the student has had the opportunity to improve their communication, time management, initiative levels through every day working activities such as working in project groups, personal responsibilities for working standards etc.



## BSc 'with Industrial Experience' Programmes

Students studying for a BSc 'with industrial experience programme' typically take up placement/internships for a minimum of nine months (maximum 14 months) between the end of the second year of study and the start of the final year of study. The School currently offers the following 'with industrial experience' programme:

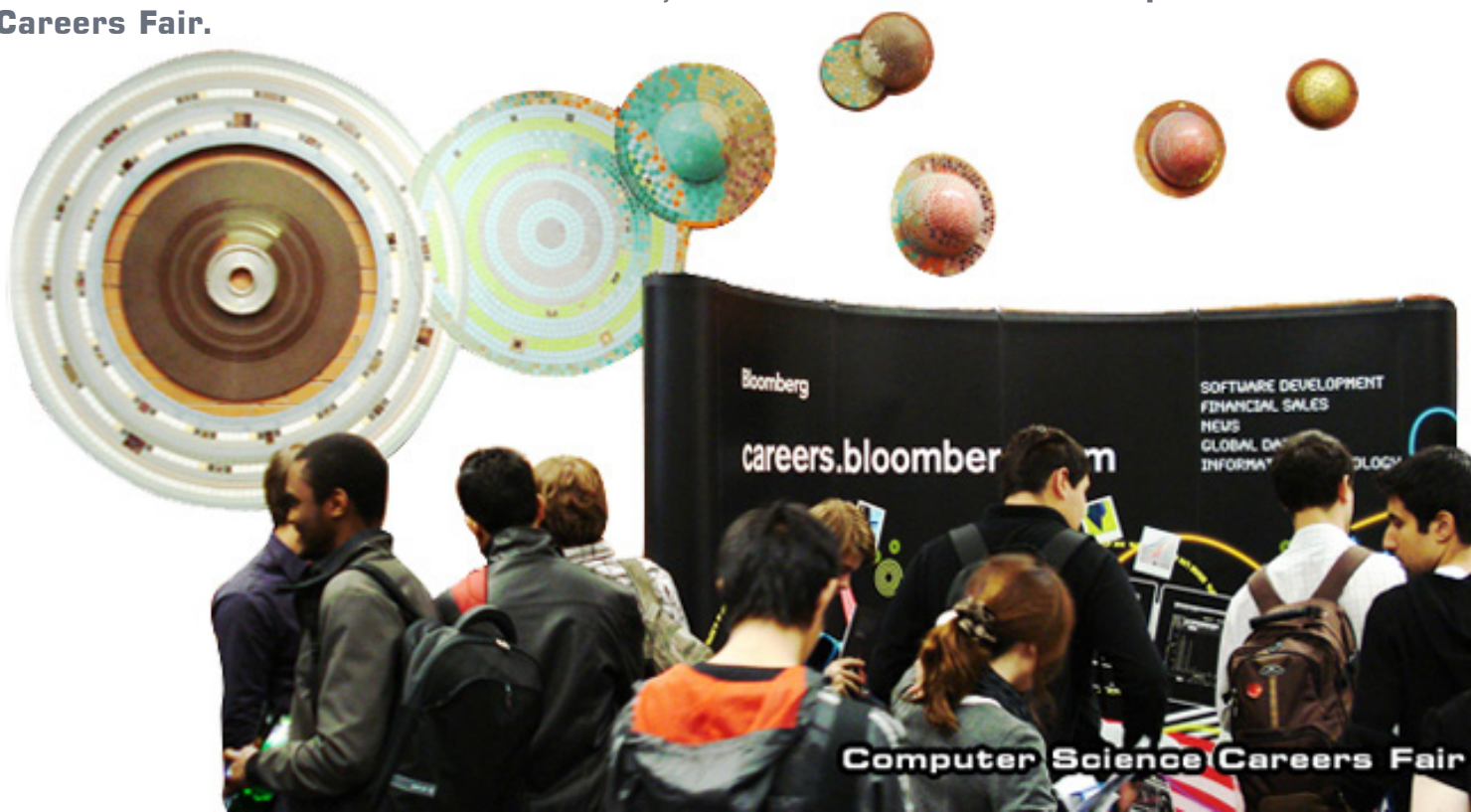
- BSc **Computer Science** with Industrial Experience
- BSc **Artificial Intelligence** with Industrial Experience
- BSc Computer **Engineering** with Industrial Experience
- BSc Computer Science and **Mathematics** with Industrial Experience
- BSc Computer Science with **Business & Management** and Industrial Experience
- BSc Computing for **Business Applications** with Industrial Experience
- BSc **Software Engineering** with Industrial Experience
- BSc **Software Engineering (Business Systems)** with Industrial Experience

This path is only offered to students who have maintained a first or second class result at the end of their second year, ensuring that companies gain high calibre students.

## MEng Programmes

Companies may also be interested in recruiting students from our MEng degree programmes for short summer placements. The MEng programme is designed to fulfil the highest professional requirements and challenge our ablest of students. Students on these programmes are available for 8-12 weeks placement during the summers between their second and third years and again between their third and final years.

The MEng third year placement is assessed and contributes to the student's final degree. Marks are awarded based on student's written report of their time on placement, a presentation seminar and managerial report. Placement providers are asked to write a short report on the students work and progress, and are invited to attend the MEng Presentation Event, which is held in conjunction with our annual **Computer Science Careers Fair**.



## Citations from companies

“He demonstrated an exceptional level of ownership for the projects he worked on and was able to perform a role that I would normally have not expected a graduate with several years experience to do as well... He has been truly exceptional as a placement student.”

**Goldman Sachs**

“He is technically excellent, picking up new systems and technologies very easily. At 3M we have very high expectations of our placement students, but even against those he has excelled.”

**3M**

“Becoming a respected engineer at Transitive requires a high level of technical competence mixed with an ability to engage with a variety of people. He has delivered beyond expectations on both scores. I would have no hesitation recommending him for permanent employment at Transitive once he has completed his studies.”

**Transitive**

“He has a very good and broad set of technical skills which he used effectively during his placement to meet his challenging goals... I strongly believe that he will continue to improve himself over time and become a very reliable and rounded engineer.”

**IBM**

“He showed that he already has the core research skills that we would expect from a good permanent member of staff.”

**GCHQ**

“His knowledge of the Software Development process is quite comprehensive. I have given him a series of challenging tasks covering several different skill sets, all of which were completed to time and with the minimum of supervision.”

**BAE Systems**



## Comments from students

"I have strengthened my knowledge of Java beyond my initial expectations. I feel much more confident... I think my time here will make me a much stronger candidate for the first class honours I am aiming for upon graduation."

**PriceWaterhouseCoopers**

"All the experience which I obtain by doing my current work will be invaluable when applying for any IT-related full-time job after graduation, including both technical and interpersonal skills."

**myGrid project, University of Manchester**

"Overall, I feel my placement has been able to offer me a glimpse into real work situations, allowing me to develop both my soft and technical skills."

**Morgan Stanley**

"Having worked with cutting edge technologies gives me a great boost to my career and great confidence going into the penultimate year at university."

**Transitive / IBM**

"The internship gave me invaluable experience which will be very important for me in the next few years. If I had to choose whether to do it again, I would definitely do it (and I would advise everyone else to do the same!)"

**Schlumberger**

"I have found almost every aspect of the experience enriching and feel I have extended my skill set considerably in both a personal and technical sense."

**PriceWaterhouseCoopers**

"I took on the placement wanting to gain experience of working life, and that I most certainly gained. My placement leave me better prepared for when I graduate and for the rest of my career, whatever path that may be."

**British Energy**

"My placement has allowed me to grow personally and professionally. The technical knowledge I have gained is immense."

**Transitive / IBM**

"Taking on a placement year has been the highlight of my University life so far, it is an unbelievable experience to work in Formula One."

**Brawn GP**

Software Engineering @

**BRAWN**GP





## How does the recruitment process work?

The School helps students to find suitable placements by circulating vacancies to pre-placement students. Students then choose which vacancies suit their individual interests and long term career goals, and contact and apply to companies directly.

Companies are therefore encouraged to send us details of their placement schemes and vacancies. Adverts, posters and job descriptions can be sent to the **Placement Secretary** (see below) for circulation. The majority of our students are placed between October and May in the academic year prior to their placement year. We therefore recommend adverts to be sent to the school during this period.

All adverts sent to the School of Computer Science for circulating to students must contain at a minimum the **name of the company**, the **length of the placement**, a short **description** of the placement, scheme or **role** and details of **how to apply**: we are unable to circulate agency adverts for unspecified organisations or roles. We also encourage organisations to provide details of salary, location and a named contact that the students can get in touch with for further information.

All placements are vetted for suitability to ensure that students work on appropriate and challenging projects.

If you would like more information on our placement schemes, please request a Placement Provider handbook by contacting:

Ona Sumner / Mabel Yau  
**Placement Secretary**  
School of Computer Science  
Kilburn Building  
The University of Manchester  
Oxford Road  
Manchester  
M13 9PL

Tel: 0161 275 0140  
Fax: 0161 275 6204  
Email: [placement-secretary@cs.man.ac.uk](mailto:placement-secretary@cs.man.ac.uk)

