



FAQ

Placement Year as a part of the degree (BSc Accounting, BSc Management, BSc IBFE, BSc ITMB)

Q: What is a placement year?

A placement year (also often called a *sandwich year* or *industrial placement*) is a full-time, paid period of employment that forms an assessed part of your degree, taken between your second year and your final year at university.

It is an integrated part of many UK undergraduate degrees. You remain enrolled as a student, but you work as a full-time employee for an external organisation.

Key features:

- **Part of your degree:** it appears on your transcript (e.g., “BSc with Industrial Experience”);
- **Full-time employment:** you work standard full-time hours (minimum 35 hrs per week), just like any other employee;
- **Paid role:** employers offer a salary (at least [minimum wage](#)), though pay levels vary by industry;
- **9–13 months long:** typically running from the *summer after second year* until *the following September*, just before you return for your final year;
- **Location flexibility:** placements can be in the UK or abroad.

Q: Why a placement year is important?

A year in industry can make a real difference to your future as it strengthens your CV in ways that classroom learning alone can't. It gives you the chance to apply your knowledge in real situations, build confidence, and develop the professional skills employers look for when hiring graduates. Having a full year of experience on your CV makes you far more employable, helping you stand out from other applicants who have only academic experience. Employers often prefer candidates who already understand how the workplace operates, and students who complete placements are more likely to be offered higher-level graduate roles with better starting salaries. This early boost means you can progress in your career faster, with more responsibility and more opportunities right from the start. Even though it adds an extra year to your degree, it can give you a strong start when you graduate and begin building the career you want.

Q: I am an international student, how can I benefit from doing a placement in the UK?

A placement year in the UK can be one of the most powerful investments an international student makes in their future. It's more than just a line on your CV, it's hands-on experience in a country known for its professional standards and global business presence. And if you land a placement with a multinational company, you're not just gaining skills; you're putting yourself on the radar for future opportunities, including the chance of being hired by the same organisation in another country. Even if you plan to leave the UK after graduation, having UK work experience shows employers you can adapt quickly, work confidently across cultures, and perform at an international level. It's the kind of experience that doesn't just make you employable, it makes you stand out in a global job market. Yes, doing a placement year may cost more, but it's the kind of investment that definitely pays off.

Q: How do I qualify for a placement year?

In order to be able to proceed on Industrial Placement (IP) route in year two, you must meet academic requirements in the first year of study. Academic requirements for undertaking a placement year vary across the programmes:

Programme	Requirements for Year 1	Requirements for Year 2
BSc Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass first year with an overall average of 55% or higher • Pass a total of 80 credits (of first year course) with 40% or higher <u>and</u> reach 30% in all remaining course units • Pass BMAN10760 - Auditing & Professional Accounting Practice with a mark of 40% or higher at the first attempt. 	<p>In order to be able to complete a placement year, the school requirements for the second year state that you should pass all your exams and not have any resits.</p> <p>While the school does not require students to achieve a 2.1 average in the second year, this may be a company requirement so please check the terms and conditions of your offer.</p> <p>Students who have to re-sit any of their exams will be transferred off the Industrial/Professional Experience stream even if they have got an offer in hand.</p>
BSc IBFE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate must normally attain an overall average of 60% or higher in Year 1 of the programme at the first attempt; and • The candidate must pass BMAN10780 Academic and Career Development with a mark of 40% or more at the first attempt 	
BSc ITMB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate must normally attain an overall average of 55% or higher in Year 1 of the programme; and • The candidate must pass BMAN11030 Academic and Professional Practice with a mark of 40% or more at the first attempt 	
BSc Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The candidate must normally attain an overall average of 60% or higher in Year 1 of the programme; and • The candidate must pass BMAN10780 Academic and Career Development with a mark of 40% or more at the first attempt 	

Q: Why do I need to meet these requirements?

A placement year isn't just "an extra option" - it's a professional role with real employers who expect evidence that you can handle the demands of both work and study. The academic requirements are there to protect students, maintain the university's reputation, and meet employer expectations. Employers want to see that you have mastered the essential foundations of your subject and can manage your time, meet deadlines, and maintain consistent effort - all of which are crucial when balancing full-time employment with university assessments during the placement year.

If a student is already struggling to manage academic work alone, it raises a genuine question about how they would handle the added pressure of a real job with expectations, responsibilities, and performance reviews. Many employers (especially in the sectors like banking, finance, consultancy) set a minimum requirement of a **2:1 average in Year 1**, using it as a way to shortlist candidates who are most likely to succeed and contribute effectively in the workplace.

Students, who have not met the academic requirements in year one, will be transferred to the three year version of their programme without Industrial Placement Experience.

Q: What does the School require from a Placement Provider?

All work placements must be:

- ✓ From nine to fourteen months long;
- ✓ Full-time employment (min 35 hrs per week), **must not** be a 100% remote role;
- ✓ Between mid-June (at the earliest) and mid-September a year after (at the latest);
- ✓ Related to your programme of study;
- ✓ Must be approved by the School: as a part of the approval process, students are required to provide documents such as a copy of the employment contract and job description.

Q: Can I do a placement abroad?

A work placement overseas can provide an excellent opportunity to develop your intercultural understanding, especially if you would like to work abroad when you graduate. However, before committing to an overseas placement, it's important to think carefully about what the experience will actually involve. Most UK placement programmes are designed with students in mind, offering structured training, coaching, and support. This is not always the case abroad, where you may be the only student in the office and expected to work at the level of a full-time employee from day one. Salaries for placement students are generally stronger in the UK, and international companies do not always offer graduate roles after a placement. If your long-term goal is to work overseas after graduation, consider joining an international company in the UK first - many relocate successful graduates to their global offices. You should also think about other risks, such as differences in workplace culture, limited pastoral support, visa restrictions, living costs, and the possibility of feeling isolated without a local student community. Taking time to weigh these factors will help you decide whether an overseas placement is the right step for you.

A placement overseas must meet the same criteria as the UK one, and so you must inform the Placement Coordinator as soon as you think you may pursue a placement abroad. The approval process for a placement overseas is more complex and can take longer, as additional checks may need to take place before you accept the offer. You should also think about potential additional expenses such as:

- ✓ Visa application costs (this may also involve travel to the host country's embassy to London etc.)
- ✓ Travel costs
- ✓ Re-allocation and accommodation costs
- ✓ Vaccination costs (if applicable)
- ✓ Medical insurance
- ✓ Food and any other personal expenses

Many placements overseas are in English-speaking companies, although you will of course find working and social life a lot easier if you speak the language of your host country. This will also give you confidence to make the most from your year abroad. The University Language Centre offers courses in a range of modern foreign languages to students: <http://www.languagecentre.manchester.ac.uk/learn-a-language/>

Please note that, given the current global situation, arranging an international placement can be challenging. We are monitoring FCO guidance closely. If you secure a placement abroad and the country is on the exemption list at the time you are due to travel, your placement can proceed.

However, if the destination is not on the exemption list - or if the guidance changes at short notice - we will be unable to approve the placement, or may need to withdraw approval even if it was granted earlier. This is because of the implications for insurance, student finance, funding, and related requirements.

Q: Will I be paid during my placement year?

Most companies offer competitive salaries. The average salary range for UK-based placements in 25-26 academic year is £23-52K per annum and we encourage you to secure a paid placement.

Q: Why do employers offer placement programmes, and who could I work for?

Many UK companies offer placement years as they gain clear business advantages: placement students bring fresh ideas, up-to-date academic knowledge and enthusiasm. Employers also use placements as a low-risk talent pipeline-assessing potential future hires over an extended period, which can reduce long-term recruitment costs and improve hiring accuracy. Additionally, hosting students helps develop existing staff by giving them opportunities to supervise and mentor, strengthening internal leadership skills. These benefits make placement programmes a strategic tool for companies looking to stay competitive and cultivate future talent.

Our students have worked for companies such as IBM, Deloitte, PGRX, PwC, Adidas, Porsche, Bentley, NHS, L'Oreal, Virgin Media, Jaguar Land Rover, Walt Disney, Bank of America and many others.

Q: Do I pay tuition fees during my placement year and why?

A placement year is very different from taking time out of university - you're still officially a registered student for the whole year. Because of that, there are several important things your tuition fee covers, even while you're working in industry. You will receive a significant tuition fee reduction for your placement year. Please visit the link below for information on placement fees:

[Student Support | Finances | Tuition fees | Fee amounts | Other fees | The University of Manchester](#)

You remain a registered UoM student while on placement, which give you continued access to the services such as:

- Your student loan and financial support;
- Academic support for any on-going assessment and for dissertation planning for when you return to study;
- Placement visits and support;
- Library facilities including all online databases and resources;
- Online careers resources;
- IT support through the online helpdesk;
- Personal support through DASS, Student Support etc. (by phone as well as in person);
- Careers and employability advice and guidance;
- Financial advice and support from the student financial support team;
- Disability support;
- University sports and music facilities, including on-going membership of any clubs and societies

Your placement fees contribute towards providing these services for you to make sure that you have the support you need to get the best experience from your placement.

Q: I am currently on a three-year programme, can I do a placement year?

Providing you meet academic requirements in year 1, we will be able to transfer you to the four-year version of your programme with IP route. Please contact the Placement Coordinator in July when your year 1 results are released.

International students who have arrived on a three-year Student visa and have decided to do a work placement, will need to apply for further time on your visa as a result. To make your application, you will require a new CAS. For more details please contact svetlana.gannon@manchester.ac.uk

When you receive a new CAS, you should proceed with your application at UKVCAS:

[Student \(visas-immigration.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.visas-immigration.service.gov.uk)

Once you have extended your visa, please make sure you provide the Placement Officer with a copy of your 4-year visa in order we could complete your transfer to Industrial / Professional Experience stream.

Please be aware, **it will not be possible to transfer you on IP stream without evidence of your 4-year student visa.**

It should be noted that no work permits required if the placement forms a formal part of your degree. According to your [Student \(visas-immigration.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.visas-immigration.service.gov.uk) you are allowed to take a fulltime employment with your placement provider.

We strongly recommend that international students apply for a 4-year Student visa from the outset, as this will save both time and additional costs later, should you decide to progress on placement route. If you subsequently decide not to undertake a placement year, you will still have the option to withdraw from the placement route during your second year of study.

Q: What can I do in year one?

One of the best forms of placement preparation is having relevant work experience. Students who have no work experience or additional responsibilities outside of their studies may find it more difficult to secure a placement than those who have a range of experiences that demonstrate a variety of skills. We encourage you to gain work experience during your first two years through volunteering, work shadowing, internships

etc. Many placement providers also offer summer internships to 1st and 2nd year students. First two years of your study is a perfect time to start building your professional background and network.

Volunteering

Opportunities for the first-year students

For more information, please go to <http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/>

CareerConnect is a new online platform for students and graduates of The University of Manchester. CareerConnect gives students access to 1000s of opportunities from recruiters seeking University of Manchester students. Additional features of the portal include:

- Creating a personal profile and receiving tailored information and alerts on industries and sectors
- Saving your search history for quick and easy access to previous searches
- 24/7 access to resources for online CV checking and interview practice

ShortList.Me is an interview preparation platform to offer students access to a range of careers and recruiter interviews with automated feedback.

Shortlist.Me is available 24/7 from any location. Students can access this directly at a time to suit them. Interviews have been provided by recruiters along with specific role interviews.

On-line CV checker and feedback

For CV support students are requested to use On-line CV Checker and to achieve a score of 70.

Sign up [here](#) (*Requires an active student email address*)

- 24/7 Access for students from any location
- Use ScoreMyCV and aim for a score of 70
- Use TargetMyCV to match a CV against any job description
- Re-submit as many times as you need to achieve a high score Access recruiter insights, advice on wording, structure and formatting
- Line by Line analysis

Q: What help is available in year 2?

Throughout your 2nd year, the Careers Service and the Placement Coordinator will deliver three dedicated placement information sessions to guide you through each stage of the application process. In addition, the Careers Service provides a wide range of sessions covering CV and cover-letter writing, psychometric tests and assessment centres preparation, giving you plenty of opportunities to build the skills employers look for. Support is widely available, but students are expected to take an active role in their own preparation - securing a placement requires engagement and initiative, as we cannot secure one on your behalf.

Any further questions, please contact UG Placement Coordinator via the details below:

Svetlana Gannon

Student Support Hub, 2nd floor AMBS

ams.placements@manchester.ac.uk