

# Graduating into the world of work

Graduate work placements: a cost effective and flexible solution to your recruitment needs

**R**emember your first day at work? What advice would you give yourself if you got the chance? Wouldn't it be great if you could get some experience of the world of work before launching your career in earnest?

This is what the University of Essex is offering new graduates and current students with a brand new Short Work Placement Scheme, starting September 2009.

That's fine for the students and graduates, but what about the employers, what do they get out of it? A graduate or student can help develop your business by bringing new ideas and fresh enthusiasm and acting as an extra resource. A placement is a cost effective and flexible solution to your recruitment needs – for instance a graduate could tackle projects otherwise put on the backburner, or you could put their IT skills and knowledge of new technologies to work.

A student can help you be more profitable and reduce costs. They can focus on business issues and solutions, resolve problems effectively, work as part of a team and – most importantly – they can think for themselves and get on with it.

So, how does the scheme work? The employer specifies what project or piece of work they need, the level of wage they can pay the graduate, and when they want them. The University matches the employer with a suitable graduate or current student, pays the

student's travel expenses and administers the whole process for both parties - it's like a temp agency but without the admin fees and the hard sell.

The University's Research and Enterprise Office is running the placements scheme with money from the government's Economic Challenge Investment Fund. Emma Hewett, who is project managing the scheme for the University tells us: "We've got a load of graduates waiting to be matched with employers from Colchester and beyond – many of whom couldn't get a summer job stacking shelves, let alone in their chosen profession,"

This is where Colchester Connected members come in. "Whatever size your business is, and whatever sector you're in, a short placement will help our graduates hit the ground running when they're looking for work," Emma points out. "The graduates are also potential employees, and if they have positive placement experiences they're more likely to stay in the Colchester area and benefit the local economy. Everyone wins!"

Employers that have offered placements range from large companies such as Vodafone and Abbey/Santander, to The Energy Saving Trust in Witham, and smaller retail and electronics firms in the area.

If you think you could help, please email [placements@essex.ac.uk](mailto:placements@essex.ac.uk)  
[www.essex.ac.uk/reo/ecif](http://www.essex.ac.uk/reo/ecif)



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