

EMPLOYER INTRODUCTION TO PLACEMENT SCHEME

Student Industrial Placement - BA Risk Management

For the BA Risk Management degree course at Glasgow Caledonian University, the course aim is to provide students with a broad overview of a risk and its management within organisations. To that end, students study a broad range of subjects in the first two years before specialising in a chosen area of interest in their final year. This includes subjects such as business continuity management, project risk management, risk and organisational resilience insurance and health and safety.

The third year of the programme is made up of a 48-week period of supervised business experience. The aim of this placement year is to bring together real work experience and the academic subjects studied over the first two years. It also provides the basis for further study in the final year of the course.

The period of risk management experience would normally commence in the period May to August following completion of the second year for at least 48 weeks.

Essentially, students are employed within companies as full time members of staff for the period of the placement and are subject to the normal terms and conditions of employment. Obviously, at the start they require an element of training and familiarisation, but should very soon assume specific responsibilities for an agreed range of tasks and/or projects.

The placement programme offers good opportunities for mutual benefit. Students develop their skills and education, and organisations can utilise the flexibility, knowledge, capabilities and enthusiasm of the students.

Some specific reasons used for employing students are;

- To carry out routine tasks in sections such as risk assessment, accounts, personnel and planning.
- To undertake special projects which might be difficult to commence otherwise.
- To fill temporary vacancies and ease peak workloads.
- To help assess the need for additional staff.
- To assess their prospects for later employment.

In addition, although the salaries paid vary a great deal, they are usually significantly lower than those for an equivalent permanent member of staff, currently the average salary is within the range £13,000 – 25,000.

Companies and organisations currently participating in this scheme range from small and medium sized to the largest multinationals. The sectors that these companies and organisations operate in include retail, engineering, manufacturing, marketing, IT, financial services, government, healthcare, housing, construction, education, welfare, environmental management and consultancy.

Student Placement

Each student will be required to complete a minimum of forty-eight weeks of supervised work/training following their second year. Successful performance during this third year is necessary before admission is permitted to the fourth year of the degree.

Objectives

On successful completion of an Industrial Placement, the student should be able to:

1. **Reflect** on the external and internal environment of a commercial, public sector or social economy organisation and demonstrate an appreciation of the mission (social mission, where appropriate), values, strategic objectives and operational priorities of the employer.
2. **Develop** risk awareness and business acumen, or in non-commercial settings (public and social economy sectors) an awareness of value-for-money considerations, and demonstrate an appreciation of how resources are managed in order to achieve strategic and operational objectives efficiently and effectively.
3. **Develop** the ability to receive and execute instructions to the employer's satisfaction.
4. **Relate**, in consultation with experienced practitioners, his/her academic studies of risk management to the real-life business environment.
5. **Develop** the interpersonal and soft skills necessary for effective work as a member of a team.
6. **Develop** technical skills appropriate to the employment.
7. **Acquire** knowledge that will help with the planning and evaluation of future study (e.g. dissertation) and career development options.
8. **Reflect** on the cultural competence that is necessary to succeed in a multi-cultural environment.

An assessment procedure is used to show evidence of the activities of the student during the course of the placement and to provide them with the opportunity to assess both the placement experience in the context of their academic work and their own personal development.

For this purpose, university staff act as placement supervisors. In liaison with the company representative/supervisor, they have a responsibility to oversee and assess the student's work within the framework of a learning outcomes agreement/record. At the conclusion of their placement, each student is required to submit a portfolio which contains blogs and vlogs, a spreadsheet of activities, a main report and a reflective essay.

For example, amongst other things, they must seek to identify the relationships between their work experience and their academic subjects. On successful completion of their year, the student can proceed to 4th year.

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