

Postgraduate work placements

MSc International Hospitality and Tourism Management MSc International Tourism Management

What is a work placement?

A work placement is a period of work experience related to your subject of study. The aim of the work placement is to facilitate your personal and professional development through experience at an appropriate level.

How do I apply for a course with a work placement?

You will need to apply for a work placement course by filling in a postgraduate application form and stating that you would like to apply for the work placement route.

How long does a work placement last?

Work placements are 12 months long. You are entitled to negotiate holidays with your employer during your placement term but you need to complete a minimum of 48 weeks work. We strongly believe that 12 months are required for you to gain an understanding of the workings of an organisation, to provide you with the appropriate experience to help you develop your career and to enable you to compete for jobs with other graduates. However, in certain exceptional circumstances, it may be possible to negotiate a six month placement.

Where will my work placement be?

We currently have placement opportunities from companies all over the UK, in Europe and other parts of the world. Some of our latest placements have been in destinations such as the Maldives, Thailand and Mauritius. You may need a visa to undertake a work placement overseas. Organisations we work with include Hilton, Marriott, Conrad, Anantara resorts, Como resorts, the Gleneagles hotel, the Hotelbeds Group, Omega Travel, Cosmos and Visit Peak District and Derbyshire.

Am I guaranteed a work placement if I join one of the work experience routes?

We strongly believe that a key learning part of the placement process is in your application to prospective employers – this is vital in preparing you for life after graduation. Therefore, we do not guarantee you a work placement - you are not given a placement and you have to work hard to find one and be successful in the recruitment.

What support will I receive to help me find a placement?

We do guarantee to support your search in a number of ways. For example, our placement team advertise placement opportunities to you through our dedicated placement web site and provide support throughout the recruitment process. In addition, our placement tutors organise dedicated teaching sessions including CV writing, developing interview skills, filling out job application to support you during your search for a work placement – these sessions are also supported by English tutors. It is your responsibility to apply for the placement vacancy as you would for any job vacancy. You then go through a recruitment process, where you may be shortlisted and invited for an interview. The employer will then contact you to let you know if you have been selected for the placement.

When does my placement search begin?

Placement classes start right at the beginning of your studies and you search for a placement during the taught element of your course. You usually have until the middle of August (the actual date will be confirmed when you join the programme) following the

completion of the taught element of your course to confirm a placement. The placement team advertise vacancies to you and invite you to attend employer presentations. You can also look for a placement yourself. We can advise you about this and can tell you how to have the placement approved by the University.

What kind of role can I expect?

Whilst you are studying to a high level it is important that you are realistic about the type of placement role you are seeking. For many of you a work placement is likely to be your first experience in the hospitality/tourism/events industry and therefore it is important to have a realistic approach. Whilst employers like to recruit postgraduate students on placements, expecting to be a manager straight away may not be possible. In many cases, employers will look for you to demonstrate your potential to manage situations before giving you more responsibility. The important point to consider is that you regard the work experience as a good starting point to your career. Make contacts, approach your placement with a management thinking approach - even if your role is not yet managerial - consider how the theory you learn at university applies to your work placement, and look to see how you might be able to turn your placement into a full-time job once you have finished your dissertation.

When will I start my work placement?

The course comprises one year of taught full-time masters study followed by your work placement. You study for two semesters (during September to May) at the University before undertaking your placement. Your work placement will start during the summer after you have completed your taught element (typically between June and September), and you also continue with your dissertation during this period.

Will I get paid whilst I am on placement?

Most work placements are paid. In general, the average UK salary while on placement is between £10,000-14,000 per annum. However some are more and some are less – some employers offer a lower salary but include accommodation and food in their package to you.

What support will I receive from the University whilst I am on my work placement?

You will be in regular contact with the University once you have started your placement. There is a team of dedicated teaching and support staff to look after you. You will be allocated a placement tutor (one of your lecturers), who will be your main point of contact while you are on your work placement. The tutor will also be responsible for communicating with your employer to discuss your progress – this is usually achieved by a visit to you in your place of employment.