

WORK PLACEMENTS

A huge range of possibilities to explore.
The choice is yours...



Fraud Investigation
Retail Market Intelligence
Logistics & Supply Chain
Software Development
Business Research & Planning
Applied Research Engineer
Operational Research
Statistical Programming
Insurance
Statistician
Actuary
Security Sciences
Data Analyst
Finance
Risk Analyst
Auditor

All of the courses we offer are available with the option of a paid placement in industry that forms a recognised part of the degree.

Courses

BSc Mathematics with a Placement Year **G101**

BSc Mathematics with Computer Science with a Placement Year **G1G5**

BSc Mathematics and Economics with a Placement Year **GL12**

BSc Mathematics with Finance and Investment Banking with a Placement Year **G1N4**

BSc Mathematics and Meteorology with a Placement Year **GF20**

BSc Mathematics and Statistics with a Placement Year **GG17**

The above courses are four years full-time

MMath Mathematics with a Placement Year **G104**

MMath Mathematics and Meteorology with a Placement year **GFC8**

The above courses are five years full-time

'My Mathematics and Economics degree has provided me with a comprehensive education in both theoretical and practical applications. This, combined with placements enabled me to develop my skills in the workplace. This has helped immeasurably in obtaining my current role at an investment firm in London.'

Alexander Gocher
Private Client Advice Associate,
Fisher Investments Europe

HOW DOES A PLACEMENT FIT WITH MY DEGREE?

A placement year is a fantastic opportunity to gain 12-months work experience in an area that is directly related to your degree programme or potential career path, giving you the freedom to find a placement that suits you and your career aspirations.

The placement will be undertaken during the third year of your course. Your first two years will be based at University where you will develop a thorough knowledge of your chosen subject, which can then be applied in an industry-specific placement.

Why a placement makes you more employable

There are many reasons why students decide to take a 12-month placement:

- most companies demand applicants have relevant work experience and those that do have an added advantage over applicants that have not undertaken work experience
- many employers use their placement year scheme to identify potential candidates for their Graduate Recruitment scheme. If you don't do a placement with the company, you may find it harder to join at a graduate level
- if you have no idea what graduate-level career path you'd like to explore, or what company you'd like to work for, a placement year allows you to investigate a career or company with a view to helping you make a more informed career choice
- not only do you apply and develop the skills that you are learning at University, but you also learn many new ones such as event planning, specialist software and databases and use of social media.

WHAT ARE MY PLACEMENT OPTIONS?

The companies you can apply to and work for will depend on your degree course and the career you are interested in pursuing.

Many of our students apply for a placement with large, established organisations such as Thames Water and IBM.

Students have also spent a rewarding year for small and medium sized enterprises here in the UK. All gain broad-based experience of day-to-day operations and communication, depending on the goals of the organisation. Typically, students will have responsibility for a specialist task. This may mean working with end-users, liaising with clients, delivering presentations or writing reports; learning many new employability skills as part of their role.

Preparation and training

The Department's dedicated Placement Coordinator will support you throughout all aspects of the placement search and application process. They will also guide you through the career planning process, which covers everything you need to know about placement years, including how to:

- fill out an application form
- create a winning CV
- write a covering letter.

We also work closely with the University's Careers & Employability Service who provide support and advice on all aspects of the application process, and give you the opportunity to participate in telephone and mock interviews, and psychometric assessments (ability tests), to ensure that you are thoroughly prepared for the application process.

Support during the placement

Once your position has been secured, the Placement Coordinator will be available to you for the duration of the placement. They will contact you at intervals during your placement and visit you at your placement organisation to offer support and guidance as required.

Recent placements

Abbott Diabetes Care, Bayer, GCHQ, IBM, IQVIA, Jaguar Land Rover, Johnson & Johnson, Office for Students, Travelport, and Walt Disney.

FINDING A PLACEMENT

There are lots of ways to find a placement. Employers look for students who are proactive and self-driven so be prepared to use a number of different methods to find your ideal placement.

Resources available to students seeking placements

- Mathematics and Statistics Department Newsletters highlighting the latest opportunities
- Visits from employers linked to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics advertising their placement opportunities
- Careers and Placement Fairs
- My Jobs Online (University of Reading online job advertising system)
- Placement 1:1 support and on-line programme
- Networking opportunities with employers



'During every university vacation I secured relevant work experience to ensure I put the learning from my Mathematics degree into practice.

I'd recommend placements to students and to make good use of the support from the Department. I've made great use of my own personal network, that keeps growing as I've completed summer and year placements and now a graduate role.'

Hannah Korpez

BSc Mathematics and Statistics
with a Placement Year, Sanofi UK

FUTURE FRIENDSHIP SKILLS ENJOYABLE VALUABLE CAREER PLACEMENT SUMMER

Sophie Parker

**GlaxoSmithKline (GSK),
Statistician**

'I have made a network of contacts and gained valuable experience that's directly related to my course – making the third year slightly easier, and I'm even more employable than I was!'

SOPHIE'S ROLE

Based in the neuroscience department at GSK, it involves looking at data from clinical trials and seeing whether a drug is effective or not.

Contributing to meetings to discuss both how trials are run and the findings from them.

Use of SAS software to program the trial data.

Daniel Orwa

HSBC Insurance, Actuarial Intern

'My placement experience is really helping in graduate interviews as I can give examples of my work and have a meaningful conversation about the industry.'

DANIEL'S ROLE

Maintain/amend/update several insurance and financial models.

Attend pricing and performance meetings, write and distribute the minutes and action logs from the meetings.

Campaign costing, projects analytics support, rate reviews and commission checking.

Katrina Dann

RSSB, Research Analyst

'I've thoroughly enjoyed my placement year in the research and development department. I've learnt new technical skills and a huge amount about the rail industry as well as developing professional skills that will help me in the future.'

KATRINA'S ROLE

Collating and analysing qualitative and quantitative information.

Researching emerging technologies and their potential impacts on the rail industry.

Producing brief articles for the website and organising/attending events.

Preparing business cases and specifications for research projects.

Jacob Overney

Travelport, Data Analyst

'I was treated like any other member of the team, and my workload and level of responsibility reflected that. I feel that this contributed greatly to my overall experience and it gave me a better idea of what to expect going into the world of work after I graduate from Reading.'

JACOB'S ROLE

Working in different departments throughout the internship including Finance, Strategy, Marketing & Sales.

Consistently encouraged to use my initiative and given a great deal of responsibility in overseeing the completion of some really interesting and open-ended projects.

SUMMER PLACEMENTS

Alice Bayes

The Bulmershe School, Teaching Assistant

'I've had a fantastic time on my summer placement and it has affirmed my desire to go into teaching after university.'

ALICE'S ROLE

Working with different teachers in the department, supporting them in the classroom with a variety of ages and abilities and leading some activities.

Giving extra support to pupils working in small groups.

Helping create resources ranging from mark schemes to wall displays.

Being with a form group to experience the pastoral side of school.

Megan Lisney

Intern, Handelsbanken

'My summer placement has really helped me to understand the banking sector and refined my choice of career path for the future.'

MEGAN'S ROLE

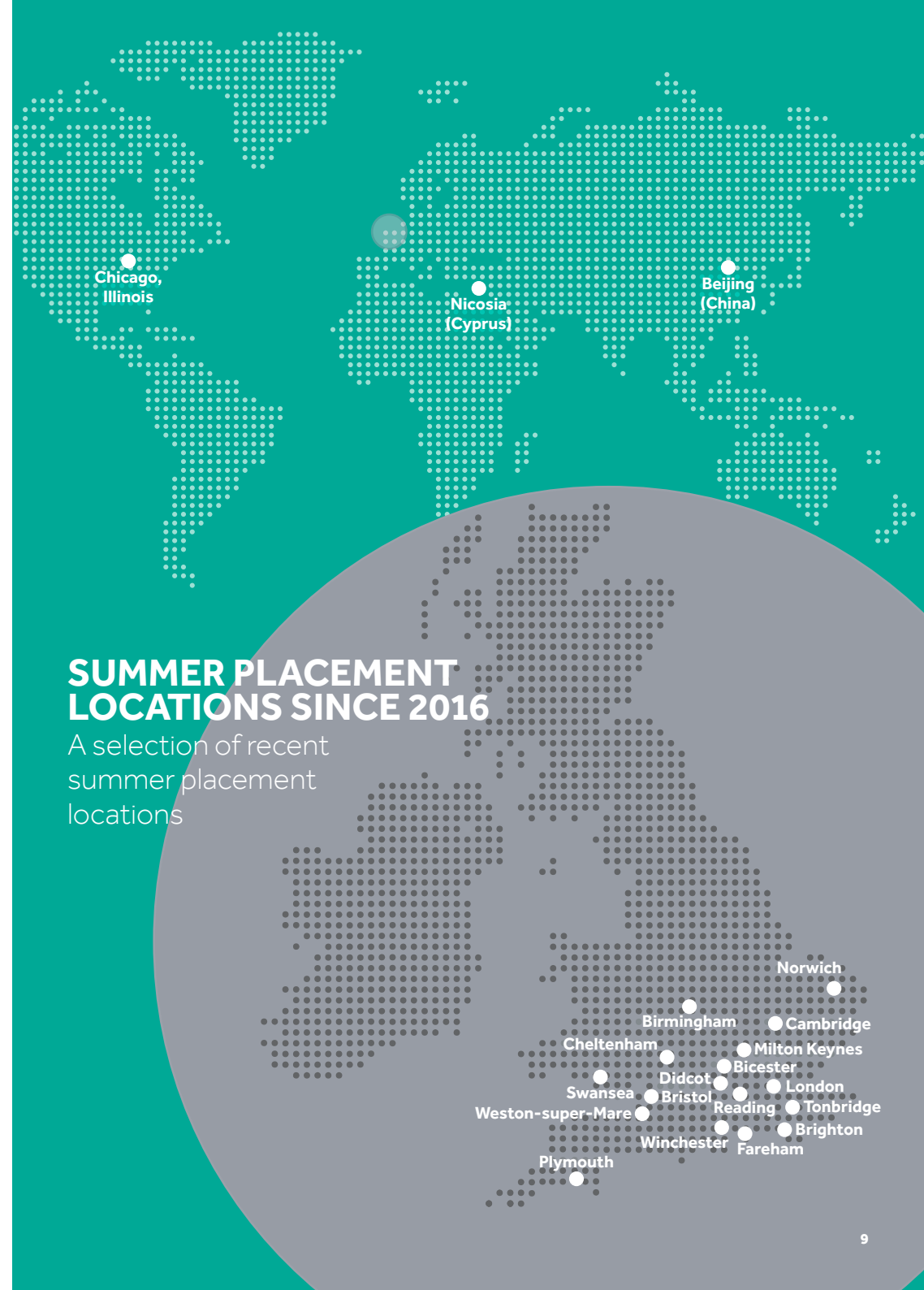
Analysing financial data and working collaboratively to prevent fraud and financial crime.

Gaining a wide range of experiences across the banking sector.

'The skills I have learnt on my summer placement are important for my future, these include: resilience; effective team work; time management; and improved communication, all key skills for undergraduates.'

Kit Straw

MMath Mathematics



FIRST YEAR PLACEMENTS

We encourage and support all students to gain relevant work experience, from Insight Programmes/Spring Weeks and work shadowing opportunities in the first year, through to summer and year placements after the second year of study.

WORK SHADOWING

Our work shadowing programme enables students in their first year of study to trial a placement for one day with either a year placement student or recent alumni. It enables you to:

- gain vital real-world experience and understand how working life differs from student life
- appreciate what a particular role actually entails
- gain knowledge of skills required for each role and organisation
- understand how knowledge gained from a mathematics degree aids employability
- get ahead of the competition.



'My Spring Insight Week with HSBC Investment Division enabled me to gain trading floor experience, work shadow various roles in different teams and allowed me to grow my network for the future. My confidence and presentation skills improved throughout the week and I successfully interviewed for a 10-week summer placement.'

The summer internship the following year provided me with a deep insight into the Global Financial Markets whilst helping me identify the career path in finance I would be most suited to.'

Mark Hurley

BSc Mathematics
Trading Analyst, The Trade Desk Inc

AFTER GRADUATION



'Having both summer and year placement experience before I graduated gave me an invaluable head start in my career.'

I've been able to utilise my network from both placements which has opened up numerous opportunities for specific projects and extra responsibilities.'

I was delighted to be offered a graduate role within my year placement organisation.'

Being able to compare the year experience to my summer placement, where I worked in a smaller organisation, enabled me to know exactly what I was looking for, both the role and size of the company.'

Anna Spence

BSc Mathematics with a Placement Year
i2 Technical Specialist, IBM Security

EMPLOYER THOUGHTS

'We have been employing mathematics and statistics placement students for more than 20 years. When something goes on for that long, something must be good about it, right? Right.'

In our UK Biostatistics department in Reading, around a third of our current permanent staff started off with us as placement students; and another third had placements elsewhere before joining us after completing their degree (or master's). I think that says something about how we treat our placement students and also about how we value having them in our department.'

A sound education is great, and short training courses are also important, but nothing beats real-life job experience when deciding who to hire. One year of placement experience can go a long way towards influencing the hiring decision.'

Dr Kerry Gordon

Senior Director, Biostatistics IQVIA



'As impressive as a degree is, a placement displays a whole set of transferable skills that are attractive to employers and will allow you to stand out on a long list of applications.'

Hannah Gaskell

BSc Mathematics with a Placement Year, Associate Director and Analytics Lead, Christie & Co

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I didn't register for the four-year degree course, can I still do a placement?

Yes, when you've accepted your placement we can transfer you to the relevant four-year degree course.

When will my placement start?

This is often dependent on your employer – some schemes run from July, others from September. If you are unclear about this or any aspect of the placement then you just need to contact the Placement Coordinator.

Will I be assessed?

Yes, the placement is allocated 120 credits and there are three pieces of assessment including a report.

Will I get paid?

All year placements are paid, with a typical salary in the region of £17,000. Depending on your placement company there may be other benefits as well, for example, a company car, European travel.

Will I be offered a job when I finish my degree?

Many companies use 12-month placements to identify recruits for their Graduate Recruitment Scheme. You'll have to perform to a high standard throughout your placement to be eligible.

WORK PLACEMENTS A HUGE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITY

 For more information, please contact:

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