

A Parent's Guide

TO INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

Bringing talent to life...

INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

WHAT ARE THEY?

At Walsall College we understand how meaningful Industry Placements can be when providing Student's with a valuable understanding of the working environment, in addition to supporting Students decide on a future career or study options.

Industry Placements have been put into place to enable Students to gain real-life, hands-on experience of a work place, building on and developing existing skills.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DOING A PLACEMENT?

Likely to result in **FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES** such as paid employment and apprenticeships

Students will develop their **KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS RELEVANT** to their course and future career

Students will have **GREATER UNDERSTANDING** of what it is like to work in their chosen industry

Students will improve their ability to gain a job by **DEVELOPING TRANSFERABLE** skills in addition to applying the skills that they have learnt in the classroom

Students will receive **COACHING & MENTORING FROM A QUALIFIED LINE MANAGER**

STUDENT'S CHOOSING THEIR OWN INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

We understand that some of our Students may wish to take ownership of their industry placement journey, and we do therefore encourage them to find their own placement.

It may also occur that your child is already in part-time employment, and wish to use this as their Industry Placement. If this is the case, the Industry Placement Officer will need to ensure the placement is relevant to their course and complete full health and safety checks - this will be completed with any potential Employer.



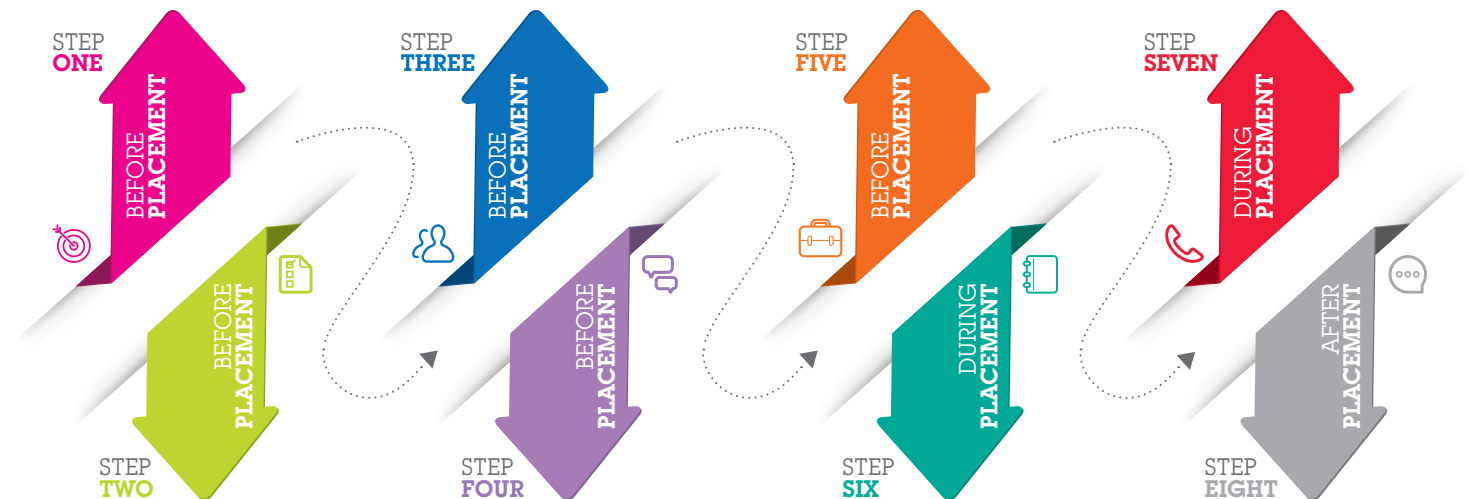
THE INDUSTRY PLACEMENT JOURNEY

Walsall College's Industry Placement Officer's liaise with suitable Employers who may be willing to support Students for their Industry Placement.

The Employer will need to provide students with a suitably qualified member of staff to be their Supervisor throughout the duration of the Placement.

Once all checks are completed the Industry Placement Officer will liaise with teaching staff and Employers to ensure the Student is fully prepared to undertake their Industry Placement.

Once they have settled into their placement, the Industry Placement Officer will visit them to check on their progress. Face to face reviews will be conducted at the 'Mid-Point' and the end of their placement. Telephone calls and emails will also be a regular form of contact in-between these visits.



Each Employer selected will under-go a rigorous Health and Safety assessment completed by the Industry Placement Officer to ensure the safety and well-being of the Students. If the setting is not suitable Students will not be placed.

The Employer may request to have an informal interview with the Student to ensure they are also a suitable candidate.

Whilst on their placement, Students will be required to complete a logbook, which will provide them with the opportunity to record and reflect on their experiences and skills.

The placement supervisor will review and provide constructive feedback on the Student's progress and performance. This will include providing the Students with a reference.

INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS FOR STUDENTS IN FIVE SIMPLE STEPS:

STEP ONE

Start your Industry Placement journey by developing your individual 'work ready' portfolio

STEP TWO

Think about the skills that you would like to develop whilst on your Industry Placement

STEP THREE

Think about your SMART targets and how you can achieve them

STEP FOUR

Keep developing on your skills by ensuring you attend each day

STEP FIVE

Have you met your SMART targets and logged your placement reflections in MAPS

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD THROUGHOUT THE PLACEMENT PROCESS?

There are many ways in which you can provide ongoing support to your child throughout their industry placement. Here are a few key ways:

- Encourage them to maintain a positive attitude towards the Industry Placement process and value the opportunity
- Ensuring they access the necessary support available to them at the College
- Complete all medical and consent forms and make the College aware of any changes to your child's health
- Provide them with gentle reminders to complete their Placement Logbook and record their progress in MAPS



CASE STUDY

Lucy Jones

"After finishing this course, I was planning to go to university but then I was offered my dream job as a full time designer, following on from a Industry Placement at Brady Bags."

Lucy Jones, studied BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Fashion, worked as a bag designer for Brady Bags

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. My child hasn't had a good experience with work experience in the past -- why would industry placements be any different?

Traditional work experience involves a student working for just 1 or 2 weeks and are often not placed within a role or business that is relevant to their studies and interest. The new industry placements will be for a minimum of 45 days with students placed within businesses that are relevant to their courses, meaning they will be able to develop the skills they really need.

2. Will my child/young adult be just making the tea and photocopying?

No. Industry placements are a big step above work experience. Students will be given relevant tasks to gain the experience they need to make a start in their career. It will be related to their course of study and will help them gain valuable experience as well as develop the skills they need to progress.

3. But won't this take them away from their studies?

No - the industry placement will be planned to compliment their studies so they will be prepared for the placement adding real value to the course. Our senior management team, course tutors and Industry Placement

Officers, have all worked closely together with the Department for Education to ensure the placement enhances their study programme.

4. How can I be sure they will receive a good placement?

We will match your child with an employer that is directly relevant to their course. We will ensure that the employer has relevant work and provides a good standard of line management so the student can receive the coaching and support needed to learn and work well. The student will have the opportunity to provide us with a list of their preferred employers they would most like to be placed with. This will be done in good time before the industry placement.

5. What about their part-time job?

We will provide plenty of notice regarding the start date that the industry placement will take place to allow the student to change shifts if needed. However, if their part time employment is relevant to their subject industry, this may be considered a suitable industry placement.

6. What does my child need to do?

- They must attend the placement.
- They will be accountable to a line

manager at the business who will expect them to meet standards in areas such as professionalism, time keeping, communication, and teamwork.

- They must adhere to all health and safety rules at the business.
- They need to complete a logbook during the placement, reflecting on their learning and development.

7. What checks will be done to make sure this is safe?

We will run due diligence on all employers for health & safety, insurance and safeguarding purposes. In addition, your child will receive regular visits from their Placement Officer to ensure they can convey any concerns and discuss their progress.

8. Why industry placements?

The Department for Education is making a number of reforms to Technical Education in order to ensure that students leave their course with "the skills, knowledge, and expertise that employers want". These reforms will introduce T Levels – two year, classroom-based technical training programmes, which will provide a high quality option alongside traditional A level options.