UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER PLACEMENT SCHEME: Renewable Energy Students

Could your enterprise benefit from highly motivated and dynamic talent willing to help inject fresh ideas and offer valuable short-term assistance?

The University of Exeter is currently looking to enhance our work with local organisations by arranging summer work placements for our talented and highly motivated undergraduate Renewable Energy students.

The University of Exeter was the first in the UK to provide a dedicated programme for the Renewable Energy sector. Both the BSc and MEng programmes are accredited by the Energy Institute to allow graduates to progress to Incorporated and Chartered Engineer status.

Industrial experience is a critical and compulsory element of both degrees and is considered vital in developing practical, applied skills. Our programmes produce high quality engineers with the technical knowledge and skills to serve the renewable energy sector, and in return, you will be helping students reach their full potential by immersing them in your organisation and its projects.

What are the benefits for employers?

- **Fill a skills gap or vacancy** – solve staff shortages or complete specific specialist projects without long term commitments
- **Identify talented future employees** – find quality new recruits through observing the impact they make
- **Reduce recruitment costs** – advertise your vacancies to our students free of charge, whilst accessing a low cost short term staffing solution
- **Inject fresh ideas** – complement existing skills with new ideas and concepts
- **Add value to your business** – access high quality, motivated, analytical thinkers
- **Raise your profile** – increase awareness of opportunities within your organisation amongst students and the wider community
- **Build international business networks** – create global industry links and obtain country-specific market intelligence through our international students

What are the benefits for students?

- **Gain important skills** for the job market, essential for enhancing future career prospects
- **Build valuable links** with relevant businesses in the Renewable Energy sector
- **Gain valuable, relevant hands-on experience**
- **Develop strong skills** in communication, team working and problem-solving
- **Apply knowledge** gained through the placement to the remainder of their degree studies
- **Make more informed choices** about their career direction

"We highly recommend the University of Exeter for the quality of its students and would actively encourage other organisations to consider offering similar placements."

Keir Harman, Head of Asset Management and Operational Services at GL Garrad Hassan

Emma Gerard (third year MEng Renewable Energy student) completed a work placement with Less CO₂ Limited
When are the students available?

Students will be available for full-time placements during their summer holidays, from late June to early October.

What kind of work experience is appropriate?

All students are encouraged to undertake industry placements during the summer vacation between their second and third year of study, and those students that progress to the MEng course are required to undertake a placement between their third and fourth year. Placements must be a minimum of six weeks although a longer duration is actively encouraged. MEng placements should have the potential to extend into a project for students to work on in the first term of their fourth year. One year placements are also possible if a company and student feel this meets their needs.

Each placement needs to be relevant to Renewable Energy but the scope is fairly broad. Past placements have included:

- Installation and technician support
- Market research
- Community energy efficiency initiatives
- Energy and property management
- Data collection and analysis
- Consultancy work
- Electric vehicle conversion
- Asset optimisation

We are happy to discuss all placement ideas you might have in mind to assess suitability for our students.

How will the process work?

We will strive to ensure that the process is as easy as possible for you, from start to finish.

Applications: We will agree the details of the placement with you and discuss your preference for interviewing short-listed applicants; we recommend that you interview the preferred candidate to ensure that you are happy they will fit into your team. The placement will be advertised to the relevant undergraduates and students will apply for those opportunities in which they are interested.

Paperwork: Paperwork will be kept to a minimum, but there may be some health and safety matters to deal with, depending on the nature of the placement.

Cost

Our students are some of the best and most highly motivated of their type in the country and compete very successfully in the employment market. We know that our students add value to businesses and so we ask that companies value their impact by paying a reasonable wage during their placement.

Students are expected to earn the national minimum wage, unless the employer is exempt from minimum wage legislation. Advice on this matter can be provided.

Contact

Our employability team would be happy to discuss possible work placements with you. Please contact us on +44 (0) 1392 723646, or email empemployability@exeter.ac.uk

“We look at work placements as two-way traffic; the student will gain some industry experience that money cannot buy whilst at the same time we will gain some very good quality and useful work from the student.”

Adam Longfield, Renewable Energy Engineer, Natural Generation (Summer Placement Provider)