

e-skills internship

the professional placement

What's special about the e-skills Professional Placement?

The e-skills internship is defined by employers, supported by government, encouraged by universities and valued by students. As a national employer led scheme, this means that students who have taken the e-skills Professional Placement scheme will have significant advantages over those on other placement schemes. The e-skills scheme provides a conduit of the best students to employers.

What is the e-skills Professional Placement?

It's a certificate of Best Practice. By registering with the scheme, your university, your employer and you yourselves are committing to follow a set of best practices defined by employers. More importantly your employer will be helping you enhance your employability skills – these are skills that you can't learn in the classroom. You will be assured of a structured placement with regular reviews and, on successful completion you'll receive a certificate defined by employers for employers.

I've heard this is important for the National Skills Academy for IT. What's that?

In recognition of your achievements and to emphasise the significance of the e-skills Professional Placement, you will be eligible to sign up with the **National Skills Academy for IT**. This is a brand new venture funded by government to reflect the needs of employers. Don't worry about this yet but it will be important after you graduate and develop your career. The important thing is that the e-skills internship gives credit against this IT professional scheme. It means you have a head start over other computing graduates.

Will I automatically get a certificate after registering?

Certificates are issued on successful completion of the placement, assuming of course that your employer and university feel that you are deserving of the award. So what do you need to do to pass?

- It's all about interpersonal skills, communication skills and business awareness so you will be working with your employer to enhance your skills. Remember that these are the skills employers are looking to develop. They thought up this scheme to help you!
- Each month you complete a short form (online) on your achievements over the month. You then upload the report on the internship website and your manager signs it off.
- As you talk with your line manager, you decide on your goals for the month and they advise you on the best way to meet your learning outcomes.
- At the end of the year, you both fill in a single page summary sheet. And that is it!

I'm already taking a placement, can I upgrade to the Professional Placement?

Yes. You need the support of your university and your employer but we will help. All you need do is register at <http://www.e-skillscommunity.com/> and we will do the rest.

Does it cost me anything?

No but there is a charge to your employer of £100 but e-skills UK will sort that out with your employer. You don't need to do anything on the financial side. e-skills UK is a non-profit organisation so money received for the scheme goes into convincing more students to take placements in the future. It is our intention to lift participation in placements from its current low of 18% to 50% within 5 years. It's already 55% in Europe!

What is required to join the Professional Placement?

Just sign up at <http://www.e-skillscommunity.com/> and we will do the rest.

Isn't it a lot of extra work?

No, not at all. In fact many universities have built the e-skills Professional Placement into their scheme. Without realising it, your employer will have been helping to make sure that you meet the learning outcomes of the scheme ensuring that you get the most out of your year in industry. If it's not part of a built in scheme then you just have those monthly forms – not much effort for an employer-endorsed certificate.

I'm not doing a Computing degree – is it still relevant?

Yes, definitely. 50% of the students on the scheme at IBM are on non-Computing degrees. It's all about interpersonal skills, communication skills and business awareness. You don't need computing experience to register this scheme. But the e-skills Professional Placement will make it much easier to take a career in IT.

Challenge us?

Still not convinced? Please send your questions to the e-skills Professional Placement team at professionalplacement@e-skills.com.