



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

**ENHANCE YOUR
EMPLOYABILITY**

WHY DO A PLACEMENT YEAR?

A placement year is an excellent opportunity to gain invaluable work experience within an area that is directly related to your degree programme or potential career path. You can apply what you have learnt at university to develop essential skills whilst working alongside industry professionals.

Our successful placement programme will provide you with hands-on experiences and a range of transferable skills prized by industry. It will strengthen your employability and help you to stand out when you apply for jobs.



PLACEMENT SUPPORT

The Economics Department's dedicated Placement Coordinator will guide you through the career planning process and support you in identifying organisations suited to your individual career interests; reviewing your CV and application forms; building your confidence for interviews, tests and assessment centres; and receiving feedback. She will also ensure that you are supported during your placement so that you get the best possible experience from the year.

You will also be able to take advantage of the support offered through the University's Careers & Employability Service where you can participate in

telephone and mock interviews and psychometric assessments (ability tests), to ensure that you are thoroughly prepared for the application process.

In addition, we encourage our students to develop their CV and network with professionals through various University schemes such as:

- RED Award
- Star Mentoring
- Thrive Mentoring
- The Reading Internship Scheme
- The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP)
- Volunteering

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

The Department of Economics courses are designed to develop your future career prospects by embedding essential employability skills within modules. These include:

- Using the tools available to efficiently manage your time and prioritise workload
- Analysis and problem-solving skills as well as; communication and presentation skills
- Writing skills developed through programme assessment including reports and essays
- Working effectively in groups to create a collective piece of writing or a presentation
- Confidently communicating and presenting through screencasts and social media
- Understanding the range of different opportunities available for you after graduation through our regular series of events with a range of visiting speakers.

PLACEMENT PROVIDERS

Our excellent links with industry, and the diversity of employers we work with and our stature in the world of economics means that we can help you find placements for a variety of career paths.

Some of our placement providers include:

- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- HM Treasury
- The Office for National Statistics
- The Ministry of Defence
- Microsoft
- Johnson & Johnson
- The Walt Disney Company
- Lloyds Bank
- Kia
- Enterprise
- SAP
- Oxford Economics
- Emperor
- BMW

Many of our students are offered jobs from their placement providers once they have completed their placement.



GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Our graduates enter diverse fields such as finance, business, marketing, publishing, PR, media, and a wide range of other careers.

Recent destinations of our graduates have included:

EMPLOYER	POSITION
The Office for National Statistics	Assistant Economist
Deloittes	Risk Advisory Consultant
BT	Commercial Management
Holland Mountain	Analyst
Ofgem	Policy Manager
Pepsico	Field Associate

STUDENT EXPERIENCE



'A placement year will be your best asset coming out of this programme; the network you build is a great start to your career, and the economics degree provides you with the foundations to take on technical roles. The highlight of my programme has definitely been my placement year as a China Economist at the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office, where I developed the most in professional terms and got to utilise my degree in a job. Another highlight was working with Reading's careers department to achieve a placement during my second year as I felt extremely supported throughout the entire process.'

Sophie Appleyard

BSc Economics with a Placement Year

'It's an incredible opportunity to be able to experience what the working world is like after university whilst still having the support of my placement coordinator. I spent my placement year at Johnson & Johnson as a Customer Development Placement working with Co-op, Nisa and wholesale accounts. It was a fantastic opportunity to embrace the responsibilities and challenges that come with working for the world's biggest pharmaceutical company. The highlight of my placement year was presenting an exclusive opportunity to the senior buyers at Co-op, where I received excellent feedback, it was great to see the final result in stores!'

Adam Davis

BA Economics with a Placement Year



'I used the Reading Internship Scheme to find my internship at BridgeHead Software where I conducted competitive analysis and market research, worked with the business development team and presented my work to the Vice President of Global Marketing and Chief of Business Development. My experience at BridgeHead Software is a significant part of my CV and has helped me work part-time during my second year and secure a summer internship at J.P. Morgan.'

Yuhana Barakzai

BSc Economics with a Placement Year



Disclaimer

This brochure was issued in 2023 and is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of Reading (the University) and start a course in autumn 2023. The University makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in the brochure is accurate and up-to-date at the time of going to press (February 2023). However, it may be necessary for the University to make some changes to the information presented in the brochure following publication – for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in practice or theory in an academic subject as a result of emerging research; or if an accrediting body requires certain course content to be added or removed. To make an informed and up-to-date decision, we recommend that you check reading.ac.uk/study.

The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the services (including the courses) described in this brochure. It does not, however, guarantee the provision of such services. Should industrial action or circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the services, the University undertakes to use all reasonable steps to minimise any disruption to the services.

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Placements disclaimer

Programmes with a Professional Placement Year (also known as 'Year in Industry' or 'Placement Year') are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunity, normally through a competitive recruitment process. The University provides dedicated career and application support for placement year students. Students who do not secure a placement or who are unable to complete the placement year due to extenuating circumstances, have the option to transfer to a three year variant of their programme with agreement from their School/Department.