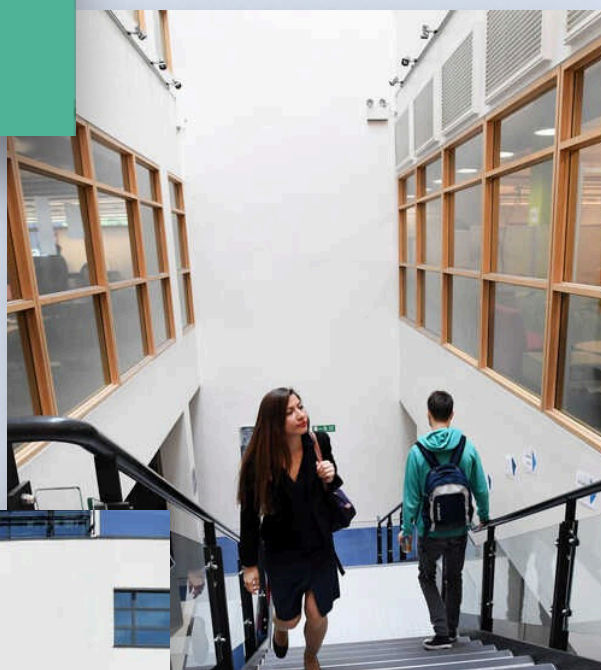


Self-employed Placement

Experience becoming your own boss



Scan here

Are you thinking of starting your own business, social enterprise or being self-employed? Instead of undertaking an industrial placement, you could be your own boss!

This option is an alternative placement experience where you can set up a business or become self-employed for the year with the support of the Entrepreneur Hub (part of Brunel Careers, Student Professional Development).

Is this option for you?

What would you gain?

- Opportunity to develop and trial a business idea with a training and support programme created by the Entrepreneur hub
- Opportunity to 'be your own boss'
- Develop a wide range of transferable 'life' skills that greatly increase your employability
- Enjoy a huge sense of personal satisfaction and achievement
- Have the time to spend up to a year (minimum of 30 weeks) exploring, researching and starting a business

What do you need?

- Desire to run your own business, social enterprise or to be self-employed / freelancer
- An idea for a product or service which you are capable of delivering to customers
- Organisation, commitment and personal drive – this is NOT an easy option
- Self-discipline

What would you miss?

- You will miss out on colleagues, corporate and workplace experience
- A regular salary
- Employer reference on CV

What would you need to do?

- Satisfy academic needs of sandwich year
- Devote proper time and energy to your business
- Attend training week and quarterly reviews, providing evidence of business progress
- Be approved by your placement advisor, department and Entrepreneur Hub

Process explained

Step 1

If your course offers a placement year and you have a fantastic freelance or business idea, present it to your department and discuss if it aligns with your course's learning objectives.

Step 2

After that, your department will direct you to Student Professional Development (SPD) team, where you will be introduced to the Entrepreneur Hub and required to schedule a meeting. Following this meeting, if they feel your idea is suitable for the placement option, they will invite you to complete an online Self-employed Placement Application Form.

Step 3

Once you have submitted the online application form, the Entrepreneur Hub will review it and get in touch with you.

Step 4

If the Entrepreneur Hub approves your application, you must then complete a Placement Approval Form (PAF) and submit it to your placement advisor in the SPD.

Step 5

Once your PAF has been approved your Self-employed Placement is officially confirmed.

Step 6

- Use the Entrepreneur Hub's support and services throughout the year.
- Attend compulsory monthly online reviews and provide monthly updates on your progress.
- Attend recommended Entrepreneur Hub workshops and events throughout the academic year that will help you with your journey to starting up your business, from business modelling workshops to networking, negotiation and pitching workshops.

Entrepreneur Hub support

- One to one consultations
- Expert advice and support
- Workshops, competitions and events
- Cash bursaries may be available

“Whether your business succeeds or not, you will learn a lot that will help you decide if running a business is for you”
Entrepreneur Hub

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must

- Be eligible to take a placement year as part of your degree course
- Be able to achieve all your learning outcomes (agreed on PAF)
- Complete your module assessments (agreed with course tutor)
- Have a viable business plan (agreed with the Entrepreneur Hub)
- Work full time on your business for a minimum of 30 weeks
- Not complete more than 15 hours of non-placement related paid work per week over the period
- Financially support yourself for the period
- Have considered and agreed in advance a placement fall back plan

Please Note: While we encourage innovation and creativity, the university cannot support all business ideas, such as those that we deem inappropriate, dangerous, or against university policy. Examples of such ideas include (but not limited to): non-scalable low-growth business models, on-campus food stalls or unlicensed catering, inappropriate or non-ethical content (e.g. adult content, gambling, alcohol, weapons, or anything illegal), get-rich-quick schemes/MLMs. To determine if your idea is eligible for this scheme, it's important to speak with your Entrepreneur Hub consultant before proceeding.

FAQ's

Q) Can I work with another student?

A) Yes, we accept business partnerships but recommend no more than 2 students.

Q) When does Placement start/finish?

A) This placement can start any time after studies are completed and needs to end prior to studies resuming.

Q) Can International students apply?

A) Due to VISA restrictions, only UK home students are able to apply.

Your next steps...

- **Research your idea**
- **Chat to your placement convenor or department to see if the self-employed placement is right for you**
- **Contact the Entrepreneur Hub for a consultation**
- **Complete our online application form**

Application form and questions

Please Note: Following your initial one-on-one session, the Entrepreneur Hub will send you the link to the online application form if this placement is the right option for you.

TOP TIP: Since you cannot save your answers as you go through the online platform, prepare your answers before beginning to fill out our online application form.

Please use the question guide below to prepare your answers before copying and pasting them into the online application form. The questions are provided in the correct sequence on the form.

Any questions please contact **hub@brunel.ac.uk**

- Full name
- Student ID number
- Course
- Placement Convenor
- Telephone number
- Email address
- How have your skills and achievements prepared you for setting up your own business? (50-100 words)
- What actions have you already taken towards making your business happen? (50-100 words)
- What support are you looking for from the Entrepreneur Hub? (50-100 words)
- How will you financially support yourself during the programme? (50-100 words)

Please note, if you opt to work a part-time job alongside your self-employed placement, Brunel University London does not accept more than 15 hrs/wk paid work and this does not count towards your placement - see further information on this in the Self-employed Placement Information Pack.

- Will you be able to devote the majority of your time to this business – please explain how? (50-100 words)
- At the end of the placement, what do you plan to do going forwards with your business? (50-100 words)

Testimonials

CHLOE-ANNE CORTES DELLIPIANI | Creative Writing BA (Hons)



Clickbait Media - Media agency, specialising in digital marketing, branding and website design “My self-employed placement year has provided me with a unique experience whereby I was allowed to independently start and run my own business, but I still had the support I needed from the Entrepreneur Hub. Reality hit us hard, but this experience forces you to learn on the job and you grow so much personally and professionally. It really is a sink or swim situation, but the team at Brunel are always on hand to help you, support you and provide much needed advice. If you want to run your own business, this is the placement for you.”

PATRICK GEIDER | Digital Media (BSc)



Holistic design specialist aligning brands, websites and products with who they serve “I developed more during my self-employed placement than at any other time in my professional career. The independence pushed me to grow across the board and resulted in opportunities that wouldn't be possible in a conventional role.”

ED CRAY | Product Design Engineering (BSc)



Sheddie Designs - Sustainable product and furniture design

“My advice to students wanting to undertake an entrepreneur placement is to go for it! It is a fantastic thing to do and really shows your willing to work hard and take responsibility for your own success! I am extremely pleased with how everything went and do feel this placement option met my expectations. The Entrepreneur hub were instrumental in giving me the support and encouragement I needed along the way.”

ANDREA SOTERIOU | Design (BA)



Moonjuice Productions - Photography and Videography

“I have loved being a freelancer during my placement year as it's provided me with the opportunity to experience what my career could involve after this course and help me gain confidence with my craft, by making connections and expanding my skills, before entering the working world as a graduate.”

JADE PETERS | Digital Media (BSc)



Tez'asiya - Character design and digital illustration

"Growing my own business for a placement has not only been incredibly rewarding, but has taught me how to overcome hurdles through experience. The hub offered a great amount of support and advice throughout the placement, and helped me to build up my confidence as a freelancer."

JACKSON DAVIS | Electronic & Electrical Engineering (BSc)



Davis and Friend - Film and design agency

"It was incredibly rewarding to have the Brunel Entrepreneur Hub behind me when I started my self employed placement. I think it's an incredibly forward thinking level of support that allows students to explore options outside of traditional employment. It was very reassuring that we could seek advice that was specific and contextual to our business, instead of trying to navigate through endless amounts of information online. It was also incredibly helpful being linked with several schemes that offer funding for small businesses - while cash is useful, so is the experience of pitching to potential investors."

Contact us...

If you have any questions or would like to explore the self-employed placement option further, please contact us via email on hub@brunel.ac.uk.



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Hub@brunel.ac.uk



Students.brunel.ac.uk/career/be-your-own-boss



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