

ENTREPRENEUR HUB



# SELF-EMPLOYED PLACEMENT

EXPERIENCE BECOMING  
YOUR OWN BOSS



**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, Professional Development Centre).**

## **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 has a placement year and you have a great business idea, approach your department with your business idea and discuss learning outcomes.

### Step 2

- The department will then refer you to the Professional Development Centre (PDC) who will arrange a meeting and provide you with the Entrepreneur Placement Application Form.

### Step 3

- Complete and return the application form.
- Contact the Entrepreneur Hub at [hub@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:hub@brunel.ac.uk) for a review of your idea.

### Step 4

- If you are given approval to proceed, you will be provided with a Placement Approval Form (PAF) which will need to be submitted to your placement advisor in the PDC.

### Step 5

- Once your PAF has been approved your Entrepreneur placement is confirmed.
- Use the Entrepreneur Hub's support and services throughout the year.
- Attend compulsory quarterly reviews and provide quarterly updates on your business progress
- Attend a compulsory training week full of workshops that will help you in your journey to starting up your business, from financial workshops to learning how to pitch your idea.

## Entrepreneur Hub support

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

[www.brunel.ac.uk/pdc/entrepreneur-hub](http://www.brunel.ac.uk/pdc/entrepreneur-hub)

“Whether your business succeeds or not, the skills you acquire will benefit your future professional journey.”

**Entrepreneur Hub**

## Eligibility criteria

### Applicants must

- Be eligible to take a placement year as part of their degree course
- Be able to achieve all their learning outcomes (agreed on PAF)
- Complete their module assessments (agreed with course tutor)
- Have a viable business plan (agreed with the Entrepreneur Hub)
- Work full time on their 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 themselves for the period
- Have considered and agreed in advance a placement fall back plan

## 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 EU nationals are able to apply.

## 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 the online application form

## Application form and questions...

Online application link (to apply):  
<https://forms.office.com/e/1btLK5QPJj>

TOP TIP: Please prepare your responses before you start to complete the above online application form as you CANNOT save your answers as you go on the online platform.

All questions listed below are listed on the online form in the exact order - we recommend you form your answers in advance using the below question guide and then copy and paste your answers into the online application form.

Any questions please contact [hub@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:hub@brunel.ac.uk)

Alternatively scan here  
to apply



1. First name
2. Last name
3. Student ID number
4. Course
5. Placement Convenor
6. Telephone number
7. Email address
8. How have your skills and achievements prepared you for setting up your own business? (50-100 words)
9. What actions have you already taken towards making your business happen? (50-100 words)
10. What support are you looking for from the Entrepreneur Hub? (50-100 words)
11. 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.

12. Will you be able to devote the majority of your time to this business – please explain how? (50 – 100 words)
13. 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.”

## Contact us...

If you have any questions or would like to explore the self-employed placement option further, please contact [hub@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:hub@brunel.ac.uk)

**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.”

**Sam Mcdermott | Digital Media (BSc)**



**‘How Did We Get Here?’ - Content creator**

“Expect the unexpected on your journey to success! My initial placement at a company fell through which was disappointing, however it led me to starting up my own business where I discovered a great variety of skills and a new level of independence. Your year may be unpredictable, but make the most out of any chance you get, also making use of the university’s great support team!”

