

# Work Placement

Definition of Work Placement  
and Roles of Participants

*Work Placement – Enhancing Employability*



Association of  
**Higher Education  
Careers Services**

## WORK PLACEMENT

**Work placement is a partnership that benefits all participants, enhances the capabilities of individuals and improves the human resources of a nation.**

Students gain experience of employment through working in areas related to their studies. Work Placement links students with employers and also forges links between employers and educational institutions. Each benefits by the experience of working together to enhance the education, training and employability of students. The employer benefits by having work tasks completed and Work Placements provide a possible source of future employees. The student gains valuable hands-on work skills and the educational institution learns of the needs of employers and the competencies required in the modern workplace.

### STUDENT FOCUS

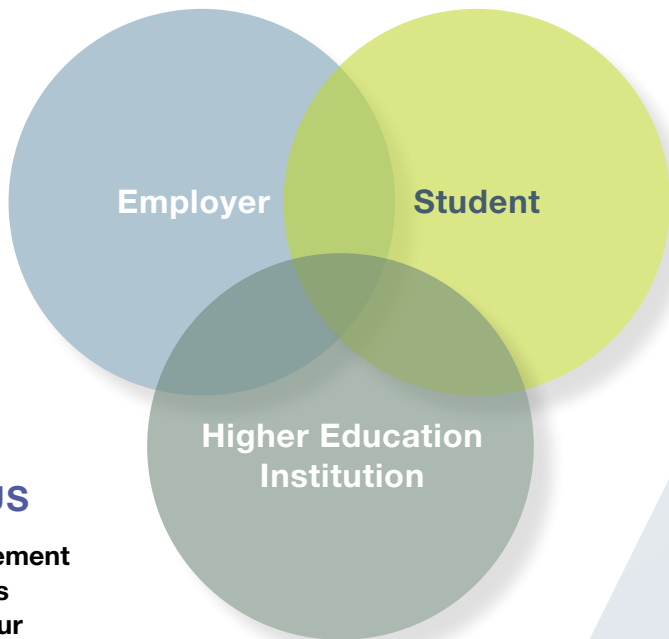
**A Work Placement gives you the chance to gain hands-on experience of the working world. It helps you put the theory learned in your course into practice, explore the career opportunities within your chosen study programme and enhance your personal and professional development.**

Whether Work Placement is compulsory or an elective option in your course, it can provide an invaluable entry into your chosen career. Work placement provides you with an opportunity to get experience of work in a professional and supervised environment. It enables your employer to have work tasks completed and to have the opportunity to assess you as a potential future employee. A Placement will enhance your knowledge and help with your studies, it will help you increase your self-awareness as a professional and also help you to find out more about your own abilities and career opportunities.

### EMPLOYER FOCUS

**Providing Work Placement gives you the opportunity to contribute to the education and development of a Placement student and helps embed employability into educational programme design and development. It will provide the chance for you to get work done, to engage with educational institutions and communicate your views on the education provided.**

While having work tasks completed you have the opportunity to assess potential future employees, plan the development of your human resource needs and be exposed to new and perhaps novel developments in your area of business. Your contribution to student learning will enhance the overall quality of the people skills and competencies available to your business, to your sector of industry and to the economy in general. It can give you the opportunity to advertise your organization as a place of graduate employment and it can also be a way of meeting researchers to discuss potential project collaborations.



## INSTITUTION FOCUS

**The provision of Work Placement in Higher Education courses is a major component of your organisation's contract with the nation. Work Placement resources your students with work-ready capabilities, cultivates relationships with employers and makes your educational programmes relevant to the future career prospects of your students.**

The Work placement component of your courses enables your institution to enhance student learning, delivering real-life learning outcomes, enhancing student employability and contributing to the national objectives of developing a high standard of education for all citizens. Work Placement provides a direct link with industry enhancing existing relationships and cultivating new links with employers. It also provides for a sharing of knowledge through collaborative engagement and opens avenues for possible applied and fundamental research.

## ABOUT AHECS

*Association of Higher Education Careers Services (AHECS) is the representative body for Careers Advisory and Work Placement Professionals in Higher Education in Ireland.*

*Its mission is to lead, support and facilitate collaboration among Higher Education Careers Services throughout Ireland and be the recognised authority on graduate career development, learning and employability.*

*All 27 Universities and Institutes of Technology in Ireland, North and South, are members.*

## ABOUT THE AHECS WORK PLACEMENT TASK GROUP

*The Group promotes the concept of Work Placement and its policy development through engagement with all stakeholders involved: students in Higher Education, Work Placement staff, academic staff and management in Higher Education, employers and their representative professional bodies, statutory regulatory bodies and Government departments.*

*It is committed to developing best practice policy and guidelines for Work Placement learning, producing relevant research publications and creating a forum for the sharing of expertise and experience among Work Placement professionals.*

## TASK GROUP OBJECTIVE

“To promote and enhance the provision, value and quality of Work Placement learning in Higher Education in Ireland.”

## TARGET ADVOCACY GROUPS

- Employer Representative bodies
- Higher Education Authority
- Student Representative bodies
- Government Ministers and Departments
- Public sector organisations relevant to Work Placement
- Irish Universities’ Association and Institutes of Technology Ireland
- National Parents’ Council
- Institute of Guidance Counsellors

For further information on Work placement contact:

### **Produced by the AHECS Work Placement Task Group:**

Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) | National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG) | National University of Ireland, Maynooth (NUIM) | Trinity College Dublin (TCD) | University College Cork (UCC) | University College Dublin (UCD) | University of Limerick (UL) | Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)

### **AHECS**

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