

Module 24 Work Placement

Module title	Work Placement
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	n/a
Module number/reference	BSCH-WP
Parent programme(s)	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing Science
Stage of parent programme	Stage 3
Semester (semester1/semester2 if applicable)	Semester 2
Module credit units (FET/HET/ECTS)	ECTS
Module credit number of units	30
List the teaching and learning modes	Direct
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)	Learners must have achieved programme entry requirements.
Pre-requisite module titles	Stage 1, Stage 2 and semester 1 modules of stage 3
Co-requisite module titles	None
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff (staff includes workplace personnel who are responsible for learners such as apprentices, trainees and learners in clinical placements)	<p>Qualified to as least a Bachelor of Science (Honours) level in Computer Science or equivalent and with a Certificate in Training and Education (30 ECTS at level 9 on the NFQ) or equivalent.</p> <p>A Liaison officer is also required for the placement of learners in suitable positions. The liaison officer is required to have relevant industry experience.</p>
Maximum number of learners per centre (or instance of the module)	60
Duration of the module	6 month industry placement
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week	12 hours in semester one
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)	One class room with capacity for 60 learners

Analysis of required learning effort		
	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours
Effort while in contact with staff		
Classroom and demonstrations	1:60	24
Monitoring and small-group teaching		
Other (specify)		
Independent Learning		
Directed e-learning		
Independent Learning		
Other hours (worksheets and assignments)		
Work-based learning – learning effort		876
Total Effort		900

Allocation of marks (within the module)					
	Continuous assessment	Supervised project	Proctored practical examination	Proctored written examination	Total
Percentage contribution	100%				100%

Module aims and objectives

The purpose of the industry placement is to provide the learner with an opportunity to consolidate all the material taught in the previous modules by applying it to real problems within an IT environment. Given its central role in setting all the other modules in the context of a working IT environment, many of the specific aims and objectives of the programme are considerably advanced by the Work Placement Module.

The placement involves a minimum of six months on the job training within a sponsoring company. The learner is monitored both by their immediate company manager and by the Faculty Industry Liaison. The learner is obliged to keep a daily record of their work-experience during their placement. It is expected that through their placement they will gain experience in a number of challenging computing tasks and have to meet the normal deadline demands of the industry.

Minimum intended module learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, the learner will be able to:

1. Competently work in the principal areas of Computer Applications
2. Address problems in a business environment by applying appropriate computer-based solutions to those problems
3. Apply all aspects of professional development to become impressive ambassadors of Computing Science
4. Apply a depth of study and research within a computing specialisation, and keep abreast of such research to avoid duplication of effort
5. Work effectively in business application software development teams
6. Select and apply appropriate techniques to particular development projects
7. Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing with their peers, managers, users and the general public
8. Confidently and responsibly tackle a wide range of problems arising in work and life generally

Rationale for inclusion of the module in the programme and its contribution to the overall MIPLOs

The Work Placement element of this programme allows the Learners to experience the wider field of Computer Science and how it relates to industry. They are given exposure large scale projects in a real-world setting. Appendix 1 of the programme document maps MIPLOs to the modules through which they are delivered.

Information provided to learners about the module

Learners receive a programme handbook to include module descriptor, module learning outcomes (MIMLO), class plan, assignment briefs, assessment strategy, and reading materials.

Module teaching and learning (including formative assessment) strategy

All of the modules prepare the learners for the requirements of industry. Preparation for finding the placement begins in Semester 1. A series of seminars are scheduled with learners relating to continuous professional development. The format of these is as follows:

- CV preparation: A one-hour seminar. The good, the bad, the formats etc.
- CV review: A two-hour seminar where learners can bring CVs for individual feedback
- Interview skills: A two-hour seminar focussing on interview techniques

- LinkedIn Profile: A two-hour Lab based session to allow learners to create and maintain a LinkedIn profile
- Careers Fair: A two-hour event allowing individual employers to meet and speak with learners
- Ethics and Compliance issues: Half day seminar on Ethics and Compliance involving a guest lecture, discussion and group based discussion

The faculty Work placement coordinator engages individually with employers, forwarding CVs and arranging interviews for learners. Depending on employer requirements these may be at the employer's premises or hosted in the College.

Through their engagement with the company during the placement the learner engages in personal and professional development with a view to identifying permanent employment.

Timetabling, learner effort and credit

The module is timetabled as a series of seminars in the first semester of the academic year. Beyond this, the learners will be on site with their employer.

The number of 30 ECTS credits assigned to this module is our assessment of the amount of learner effort required. Continuous assessment spreads the learner effort across 6 months of employment. Learners are expected be full-time with the employer working a minimum of 35 hours per week for the twenty four week period of the placement.

There are 14 contact hours made up of 6 seminars delivered over the 12 weeks of the first semester taking place in a classroom.

The team believes that 900 hours of learner effort are required by learners to achieve the MIMLOs and justify the award of 30 ECTS credits at this stage of the programme.

Work-based learning and practice-placement

In this module a learner is required to have a supervisor who is not only checking the quality of their work but should also be acting as a guide or mentor to further develop the learner's skills and direct them in ways to enhance their knowledge.

The work environment and tasks can be varied, but must be in an IT role within the company. The faculty work placement guidelines outline how the module is managed and what the responsibilities of each of the participants, the College, the learner, and the employer. The learner is expected to behave professionally and undertake all tasks assigned by their employer and the employer is expected to assign meaningful

tasks to the learner. Learners are expected to engage with these tasks as they represent a real world chance to apply and cement the skills they have already learned.

E-learning

The college VLE is used to disseminate notes, advice, and online resources to support the learners. The learners are also given access to Lynda.com as a resource for reference.

Module physical resource requirements

Requirements are for a classroom for 60 learners equipped with a projector.

Reading lists and other information resources

Reading lists and other information resources

Recommended Text

Corfield, R. (2009) *Preparing the Perfect Job Application*. London: Kogan Page.

Corfield, R. (2010) *Preparing the Perfect CV*. London: Kogan Page.

Douglas, A. and O'Neill, S. (2010) *The Essential Work Experience Handbook*. Dublin: Gill & Macmillan.

Secondary Reading:

Duarte, N. (2015) *Slide:ology: The Art and Science of Creating Great Presentations*. Sebastopol: O'Reilly Media.

McClave, H. (2008) *Communication for Business*. Dublin: Gill & Macmillan.

Thill, J. V. and Bovée, C. L. (2017) *Excellence in Business Communication*. Boston: Pearson.

Weissman, J. (2014) *Presenting to Win*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education.

Specifications for module staffing requirements

For each instance of the module, one lecturer qualified to at least Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computer Science or equivalent, and with a Certificate in Training and Education (30 ECTS at level 9 on the NFQ) or equivalent.. Industry experience would be a benefit but is not a requirement.

Learners also benefit from the support of the programme director, programme administrator, learner representative and the Student Union and Counselling Service.

Module Assessment Strategy

The assignments constitute the overall grade achieved, and are based on each individual learner's work. The continuous assessments provide for ongoing feedback to the learner and relates to the module curriculum.

No.	Description	MIMLOs	Weighting
1	Learners are required to submit Industry Placement diary sheets after every four weeks. The diary sheets should show the development and the level of understanding of the learner throughout the placement.	all	30%
2	Final work placement report to be completed by the learner. This should demonstrate that the learner can reflect and evaluate the learning that has happened during placement.	all	40%
3	A manager's report to be completed by the work placement supervisor in conjunction with the learner's immediate manager in the company. This should reflect on the learner's overall performance during the placement.	all	30%

All repeat work is capped at 40%.

Sample assessment materials

Note: All assignment briefs are subject to change in order to maintain current content. Templates for all diary sheets and reports are included in the faculty work placement guidelines given to all learners and employers.