

Global Placement Years

Global Opportunities Fair 2025

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Overview of today's presentation:

- What is a Placement Year?
- Where can you go on placement?
- How can you find a global placement?
- Support and resources available
- Approval process

What is a placement year and what are the requirements?



- Minimum 40 weeks in length
- Professional level work experience
- Self-sourced
- Usually between 2nd & 3rd year
- Formally assessed on a pass or fail basis
- Usually paid
- 20% tuition fee covers pre-placement and on-placement support plus access to usual student benefits
- Assigned academic placement tutor
- **Important! You have to successfully pass level 2**



What are the benefits of doing a placement year?



An opportunity to...

- Expand your skills
- Trial your future career
- Earn money
- Increase your academic prospects
- Secure a grad offer
- Build a network
- Go global: discover a new city or country



Global Opportunity Definitions

Placement Year

- An OPTIONAL additional year to your degree
- Typically taken between your 2nd and 3rd year
- Can be within the UK or anywhere internationally (so long as it is safe to do so)
- Professional level work experience
- Pass or Fail, doesn't affect your overall degree outcome
- Assessed on employability skill progression through reflective learning
- 20% tuition fee

Study Abroad

- An OPTIONAL additional year to your degree
- Taken between your 2nd and 3rd year
- You will visit a University in an exchange agreement with Durham University
- You apply for a place through the Study Abroad processes
- Depending on the agreement the year may or may not count towards your final degree outcome
- Assessed on academic achievement for the year
- 15% tuition fee

Year Abroad

- A MANDATORY additional year to your language degree
- Taken between your 2nd and 3rd year
- Must be abroad in a country that speaks your target language(s)
- You can opt to either study or work or a combination of both
- Pass or Fail, doesn't affect your overall degree outcome
- Assessed on your language skill progression
- 15% tuition fee

Where can you go on placement?



International Placement Portfolio



Australia
Austria
Belgium
Channel Islands
Chile
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Denmark
France
Germany 🤗
Gibraltar
Hong Kong
India
Ireland

Italy
Japan
Mexico
Nepal
Russia
Singapore
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Switzerland
Taiwan
Turkey
UAE – Dubai
Uganda
USA

🌍 If it's a new country, then we explore together!

International placements: checklist

- If the placement is outside the UK, please visit the [Embassy of the country you are travelling to](#) in order to find out which visa to apply for and how to apply
- Be aware of language requirements
- Check terminology: placement versus internship
- Ensure that the placement opportunity is aligned with the UK academic year and starts in the summer (Jun – Sep)
- Be aware that international placement salaries differ greatly; they should still meet local NMW or equivalent if available
- **Please do not use agencies!** 💰 💰 💰



Speculative Applications

Speculative Applications

- Speculative applications are used to approach employers directly, even when they aren't advertising a vacancy.
- The process usually involves sending a speculative covering letter and a CV which highlight the kind of role you are seeking and your relevant skills and knowledge.
- As well as researching the employer, think about the skills and experience the employer might be looking for – you will need to identify these as there is no job description to refer to.

Reaching out to employers

- Either via LinkedIn, by email or phone
- Ensure that your profile is up to date and complete
- Send an invitation, once accepted you will be able to send your intro message

Dear Mr Seymour

Re: Community Education Opportunities at Horden Nature Reserve

Thank you for adding me to your list of contacts on LinkedIn. I have recently completed a BSc Biology at Durham University and am keen to enquire if there are any opportunities to work at Horden Nature Reserve in a community education role. I have attached a covering letter for your consideration, in addition to my profile.

Yours sincerely Edward Hacker

Speculative Applications

Cover Letter Structure

1. Contact details
2. Opening paragraph
3. Research paragraph
4. Value paragraph
5. Closing paragraph

Resources available to you



GoinGlobal

GoinGlobal

<https://online.goinglobal.com/>

- It includes country and city guides that provide specific information around recruitment and employment in that location
- Tutorials on how to use GoinGlobal are available within the resource
- Usually not suitable for finding opportunities

The screenshot shows the GoinGlobal website homepage. The header features the GoinGlobal logo with the tagline "Jobs here, there, everywhere." and navigation links for Training, About Us, Translate, and a user greeting "Welcome jthomas". A "GG University" button is also present. Below the header is a green navigation bar with links: Home, My GoinGlobal, Career Guides, Jobs, Internships, H1B Visas, and Employer Directory. The main content area includes a "Study Abroad" section with text about local advice and a photo of three students. To the right are large blue buttons for "Career Guides", "Jobs & Internships", "Employer Profiles", and "H1B Search Engine". Below these are search bars for "Search Content" and "Search Opportunities". A "Jobs" button is at the bottom right. A "Career Guides" section at the bottom left lists: Country Career Guides, Global City Career Guides, and U.S. City Career Guides.

GoinGlobal™
Jobs here, there, everywhere.

Training | About Us | Translate | Welcome jthomas

GG University

Home | My GoinGlobal | Career Guides | Jobs | Internships | H1B Visas | Employer Directory

Study Abroad
Local advice for global success
Take advantage of our in-country experts' advice to make the most of your time abroad.

Career Guides
• training webinars
• User Guide

Jobs & Internships

Employer Profiles
Search Content

H1B Search Engine
Search Opportunities

Career Guides
Utilize our comprehensive career and employment resources tool kit fill everything you need to find jobs and internships at home and abroad.
• Country Career Guides
• Global City Career Guides
• U.S. City Career Guides

Jobs

[Home](#) » [Career Guides](#) » Country Career Guides

Country Career Guides

Get the information you need for a successful job or internship search in the top employment markets around the globe. Our country-specific guides provide 180+ pages of in-depth career advice from our local employment experts. Topics include: Job search resources, hiring trends, industry overviews, professional and social networking groups, work permit and visa regulations, financial considerations, resume/cv guidelines, interview tips and cultural advice.



Argentina



Australia



Austria



Belgium



Brazil



Canada



Chile



China



Costa Rica



Czech Republic



Denmark



Finland



Boost your cultural IQ

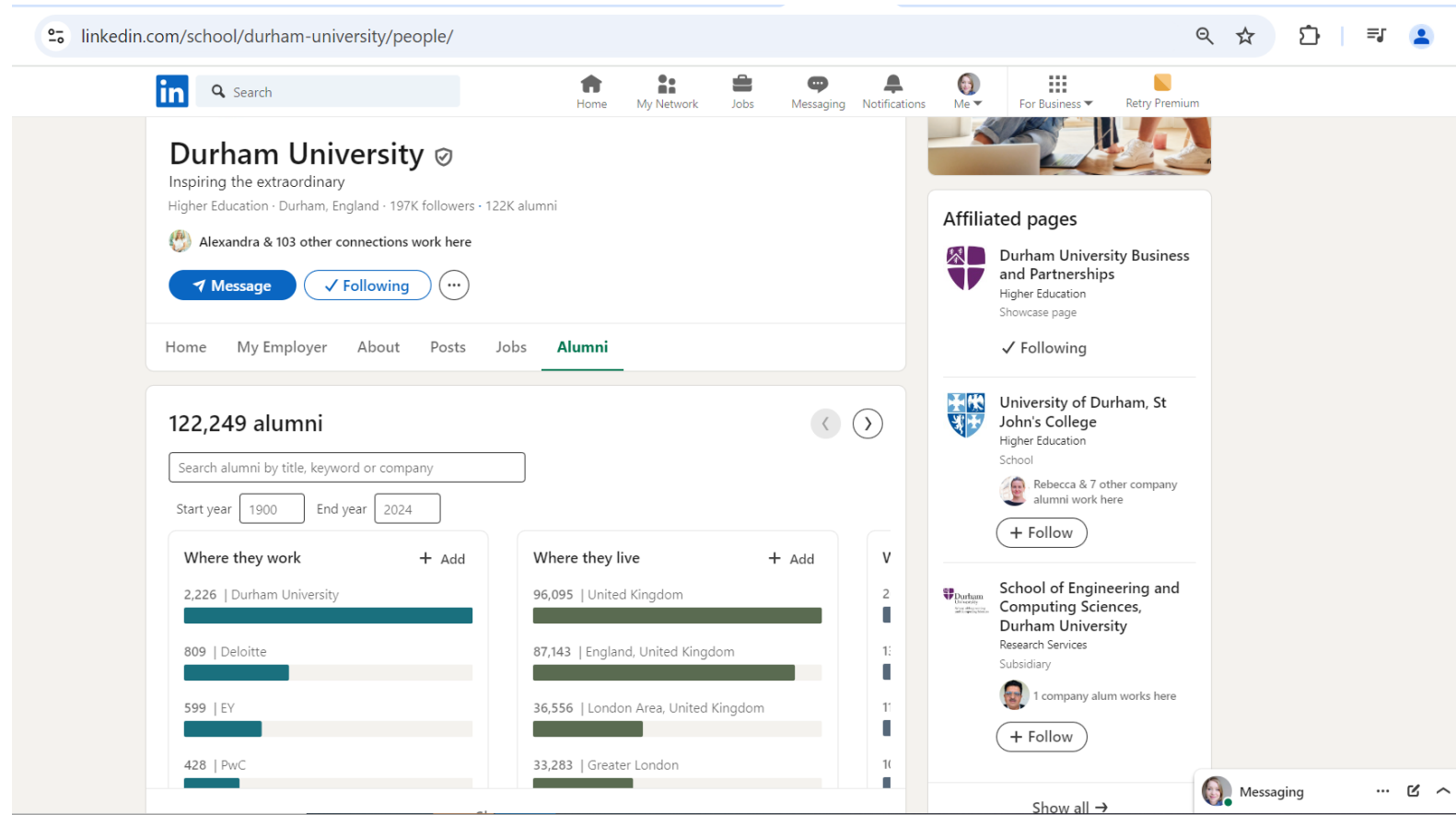
Get started

LinkedIn

[Durham University: Posts](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



Durham University Alumni Tool



You can see:

- Where they live
- Where they work
- What they do
- What they studied
- What they are skilled at
- How you are connected

Things to do:

- Join our closed LinkedIn groups as we sometimes promote international placements or placements that include business travel:

Durham University – Find a Placement

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12147668/>

Durham University – Business Placements

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12832647/>

Durham University – Science Placements

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13678269/>

- Research & network

Careers & Enterprise

Careers & Enterprise

Faculty Placement Manager:

- 1:1 appointments either in person or online - general guidance, CV review, CL review, speculative application, AC prep, mock interviews

Wider Careers Team:

- Events and presentations:
 - 28/10/25 How to write effective CVs and cover letters, 2-3pm, PCL048
 - 29/10/25 Mock Assessment Centre, 12 – 1.30pm, TLC123
 - 12/11/25 How to prepare for employer interviews, 1-2pm, TLC123
 - 20/11/25 How to use LinkedIn and online communities to benefit your career, 2-3pm, TLC117

Bookable via Careers Connect

The Student Services Portal <https://careers.dur.ac.uk/student/home.html>



Welcome to the Careers & Enterprise Centre

Search ▾

Book ▾

Career Discovery



Ask a Care...



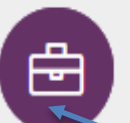
Events



Appointm...



Referrals



Opportuni...



Exclusive ...



Forms



Pathways

Upcoming bookings

Event

International Students - Help &



Ask a careers question

Search and **book**
events

Browse and
book
appointments

Opportunities: browse
work experience and
employment vacancies

Funding, Fees and Finance

Funding, Fees and Finance

To support students with global opportunities there is a range of support in terms of **Fees**, **Finance** and **Funding**:

- **Fees**: tuition fee reductions are in place for Placement Year and Study Abroad students.
- **Finance**: Students can still apply for Student Finance and receive their Durham Grant.
- **Funding**: Many Global Opportunities are self-funded, however, there are number of additional funding sources that can support students. Additional support may also be available for students that may have entry barriers, such as caring responsibilities, medical support costs or who are from disadvantaged groups.
- [GO Turing - Durham University](#)



Global Durham

Explore

Global
Durham

About
Us

Research &
Partnerships

Global
Networks &
Consortia

Global
Opportunities

Global
Lecture
Series

Durham
Global
Week

News
&
Events

Contact
Us

GO Turing Scheme

Durham University has been successful in boosting Global Opportunities for its students for the coming academic year. The University has been awarded a grant from the Turing Scheme, the UK government's programme to study and work abroad.

See the Global Opportunities available at Durham →

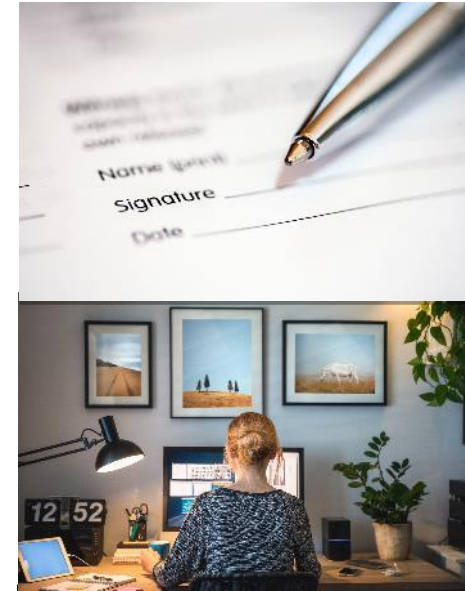
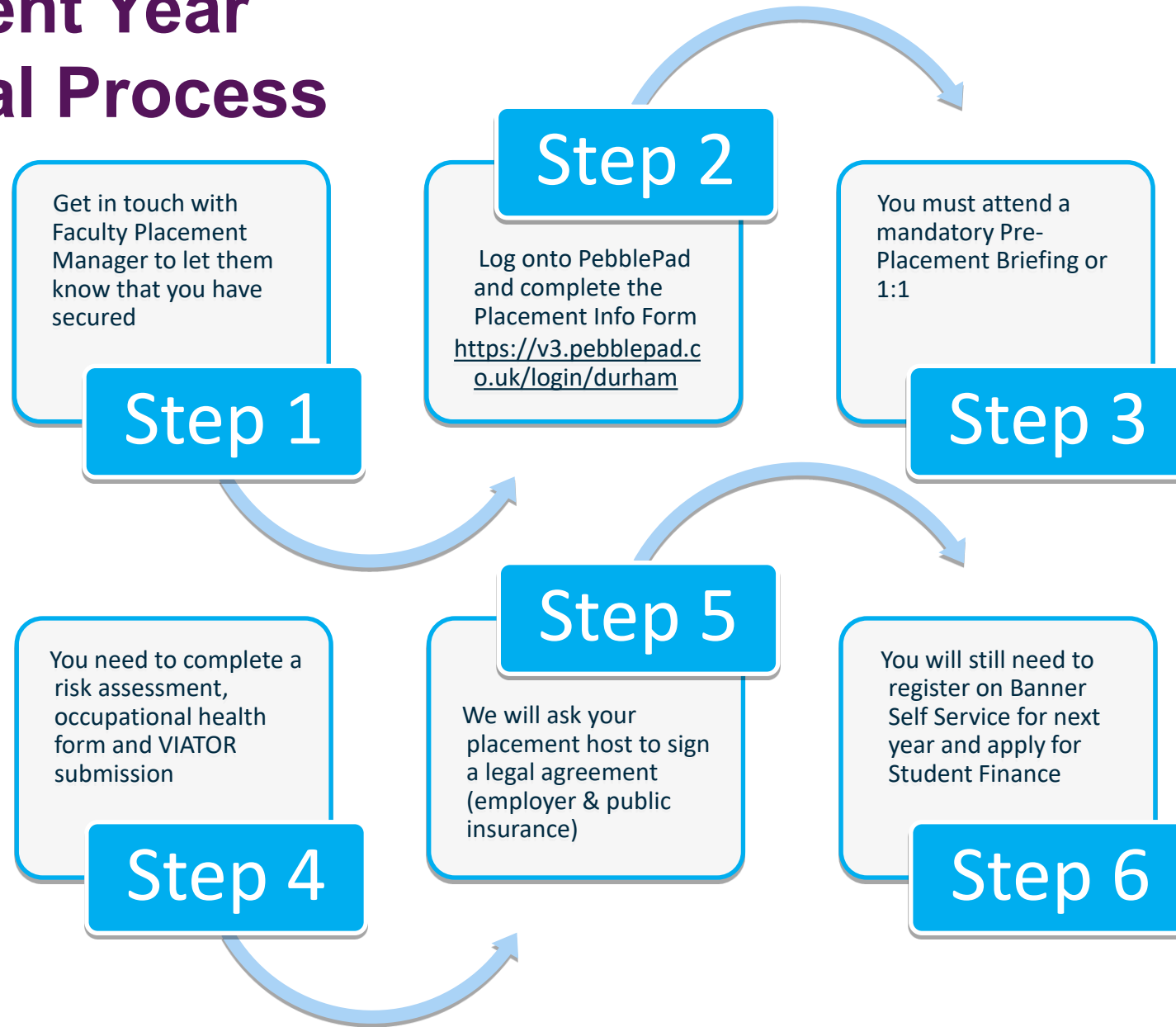
TURING

SCHEME

Funded by the UK's global
programme to study and work abroad

Placement Approval Process

Placement Year Approval Process





Durham
University

Careers & Enterprise

Thank you

Contact us here:

Careers & Enterprise Centre



[www.durham.ac.uk/study/
careers-employability-enterprise](http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/careers-employability-enterprise)



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Business.placements@durham.ac.uk
Sciences.placements@durham.ac.uk
Sociaisciences.placements@durham.ac.uk



@careersatdurham