



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 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



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

ANDREA SOTERIOU | Design (BA)



JADE PETERS | Digital Media (BSc)



JACKSON DAVIS | Electronic & Electrical Engineering (BSc)



Sam Mcdermott | Digital Media (BSc)



