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Students as Educators and Mentors: increasing awareness of the benefits and participation in sandwich placements

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# HEA

# Conference

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University of  
HUDDERSFIELD

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# Students as educators and mentors:

## increasing awareness of the benefits and participation in sandwich placements

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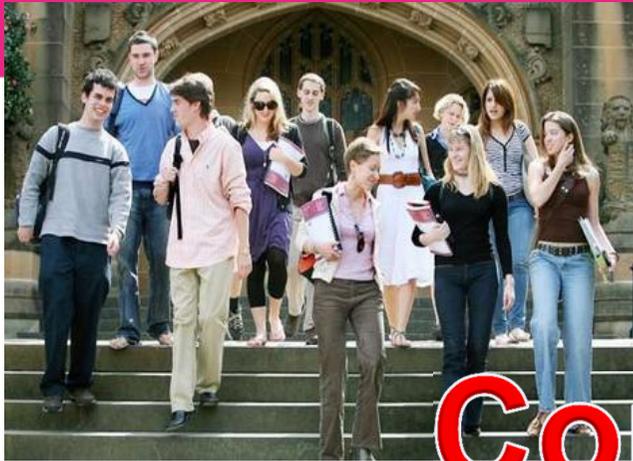
# High Fliers (2013)



## Among top 100 graduate recruiters:

- Third of jobs will be filled by graduates who have already worked for the organisation
- 4/5ths of these companies offer paid work experience programmes
- Without work experience graduates are unlikely to be successful during the selection process.

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# Competitive



# Work experience while studying



- Part time work
- Voluntary work
- Internships
- Embedded into the curriculum
- Sandwich placements – up to 48 weeks

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# Youngson and Brooks (2013)



## Taking a placement:

1. Improves academic performance
2. 50% more likely to obtain graduate level work
3. Earn £2000 more on average



# HEA Individual Teaching Grant



- Project aim:
- To improve awareness of placements and their benefits to increase participation



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# Why?



- Long term benefits but take up rate low
- Students from narrow background
- Improve understanding of the benefits to increase participation rates
- Government agenda

- National uptake declined from **9.5%** 2002/3 to **7.2%** 2009/10
- (Education for Engineering, 2011)
- Response?

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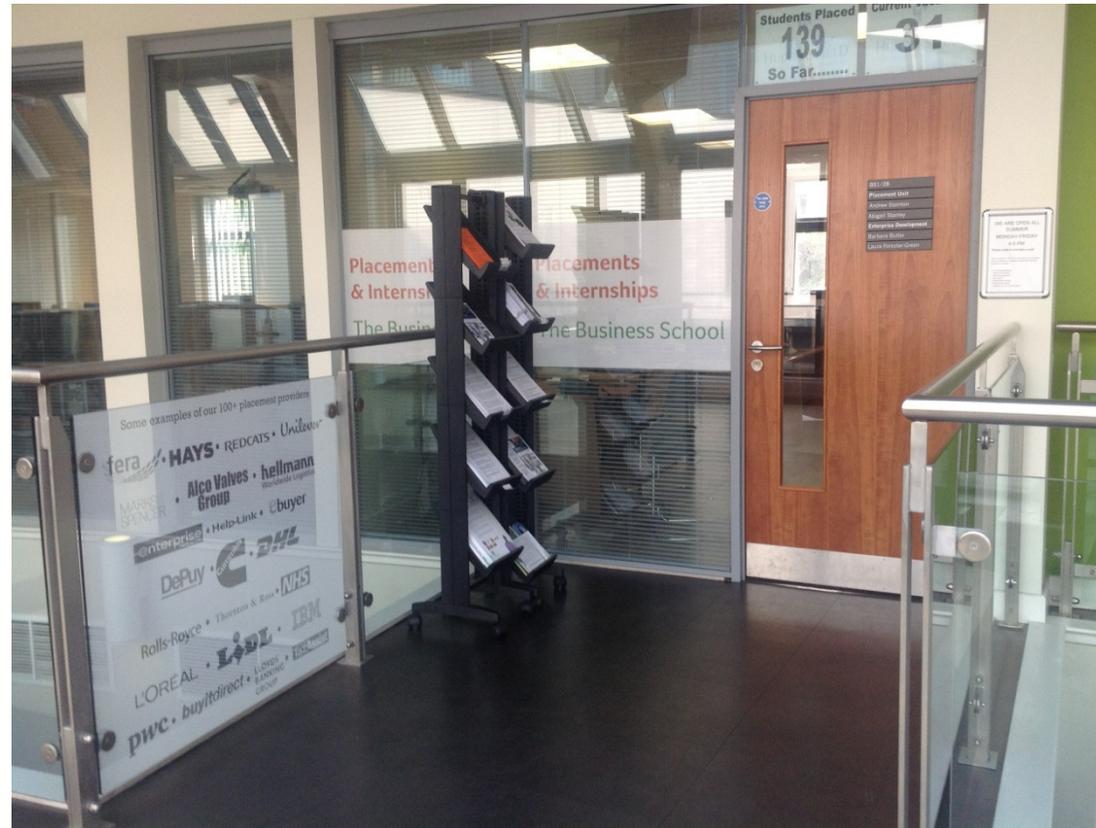
Placements students see it as a:



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# Supported by the placement unit



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- Using former placement students as educators and mentors
- Speak from personal experience
- Similar age and life position
- Powerful influence in addition to tutor
- (Allen and Eby, 2010)

# Start at open day



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# Ongoing mentoring



- Classroom sessions
- Lunchtime briefing for all students registered for a placement
- Email contact
- Interview advice

<http://ugradplacements.hud.ac.uk>



Home About Student Experiences Hints and Tips Contact Us

**PLACEMENT SITE LOGO HERE**

**Take a Year Out**  
Why not try a placement year. Have a look what past students have to say.

Why choose a placement? Top 10 Providers Common Questions Student Profiles

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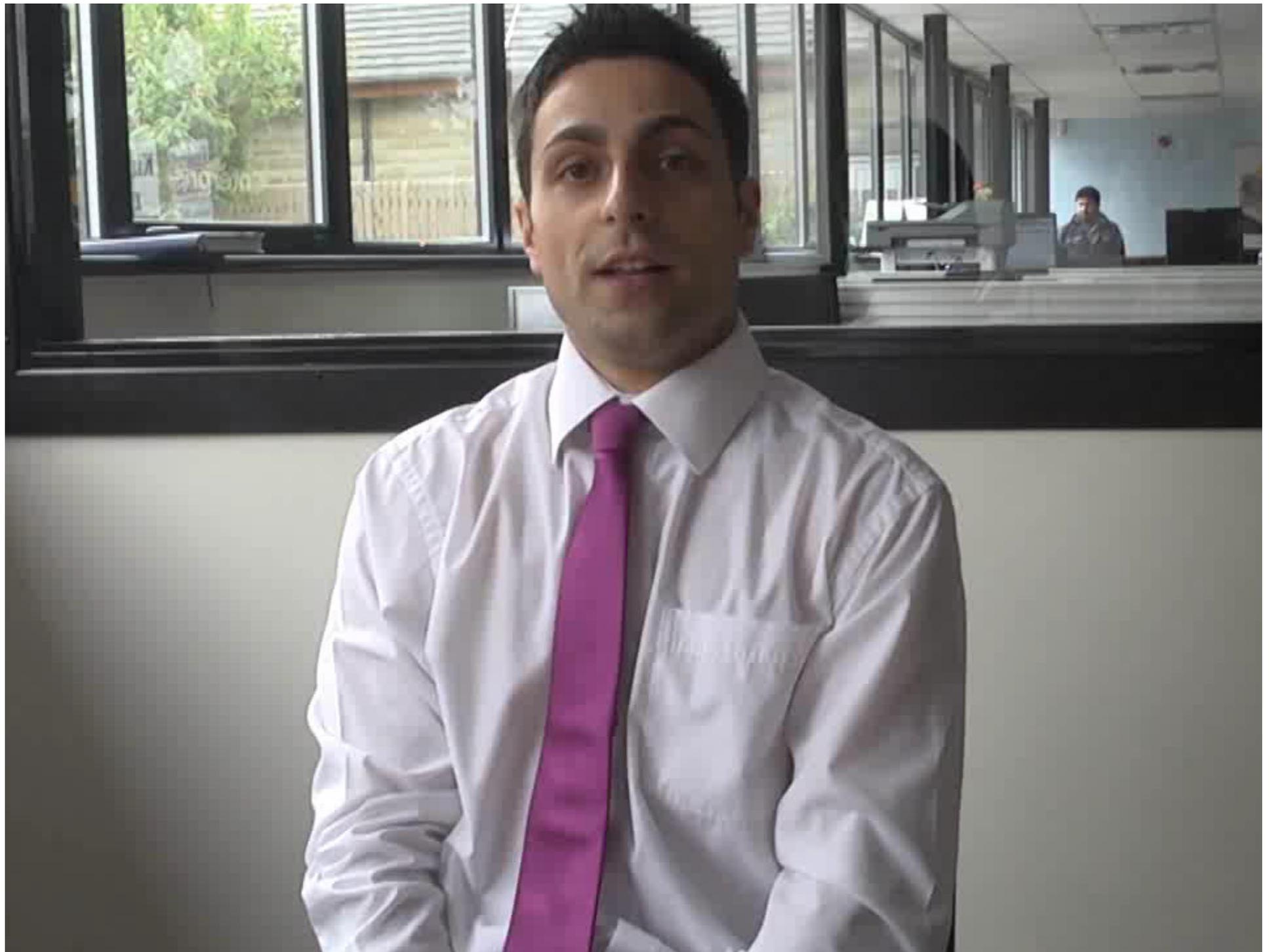
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# Placement Conference



## Enhancing Employability through Placements in Higher Education

10am to 3pm - Tuesday 9 July 2013

The University of Huddersfield Business School

The benefits of undergraduate placements are well established, however, in the present economic climate, engaging students in the placement process is becoming a greater challenge. We invite you to attend our one-day conference to share good practice in the initiatives and interventions Higher Education institutions offer to support and encourage undergraduates in this process.

### The conference will include:

- Keynote address from RateMyPlacement who will share insights, shocking statistics and best practice on how to ensure students will become hooked on securing that all important work experience
- Keynote address from Judie Kay (RMIT University, Australia) & Norah McRae (University of Victoria, Canada) who will discuss national perspectives of Work Integrated Learning and review the trends and issues in their respective countries
- Four open presentations with a choice of workshops to attend, delivered by speakers from a number of universities from across the UK
- A Placement Student, Employer & Graduate panel to discuss personal experiences and perspectives to aid future placement processes

The conference is **FREE** to attend and refreshments and a light-lunch will be provided



For further information and bookings click on the picture above or visit:

[www.hud.ac.uk/uhs/businessschool-events/enhancingemployability](http://www.hud.ac.uk/uhs/businessschool-events/enhancingemployability)

For enquiries:  
Email: [businessesvents@hud.ac.uk](mailto:businessesvents@hud.ac.uk)  
Telephone: 01484 472026

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# Impact?



- The number of students already securing placements is 50% higher than last year
- The quality of placement is improving

# Future Developments

- Increase the number of students taking placements
- Wider social and ethnic backgrounds
- Better career planning by students throughout their studies

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