



Aston Business School
Birmingham

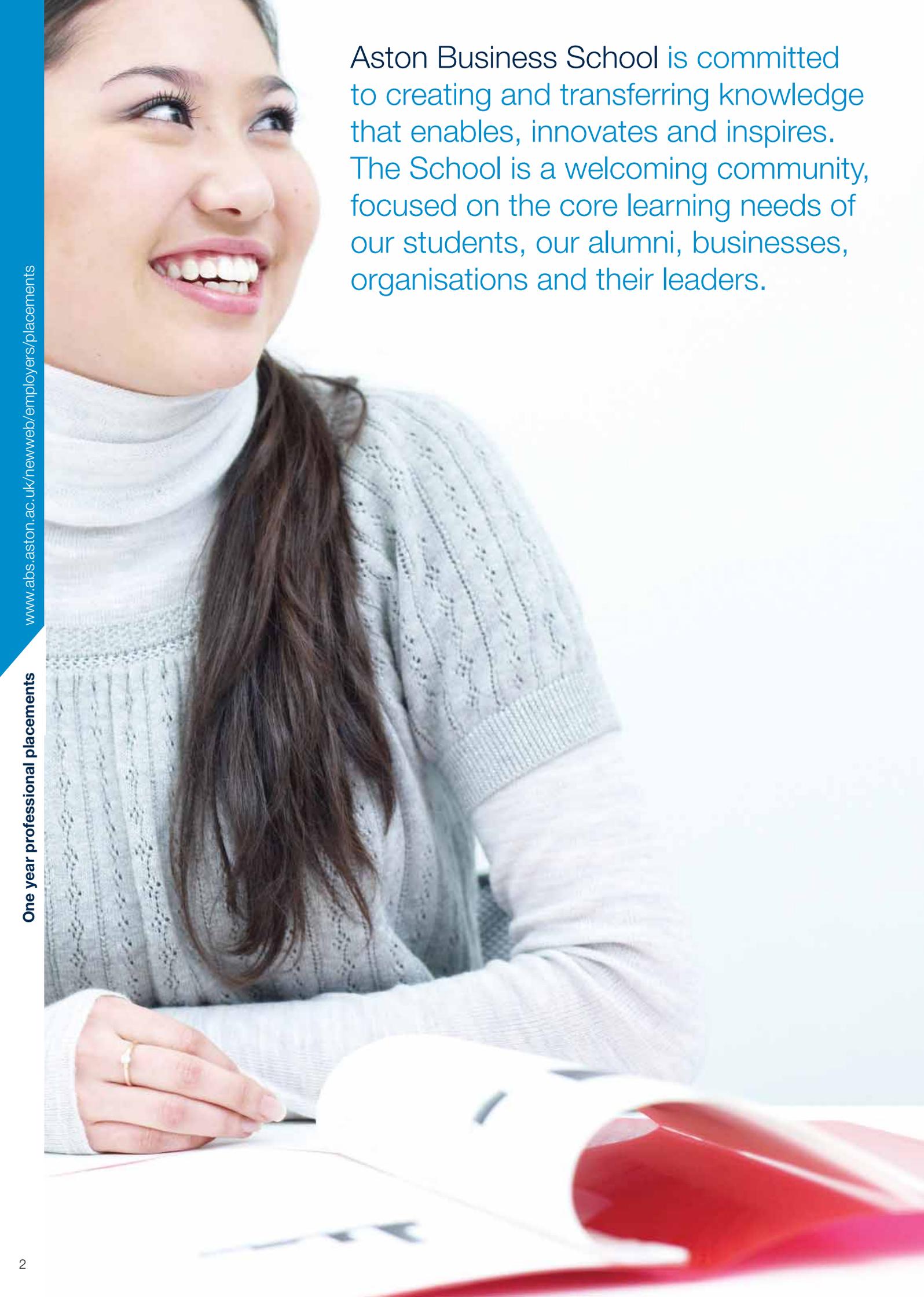
One year professional placements

A world of opportunity



The Aston Business School Placements
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Aston Business School is committed to creating and transferring knowledge that enables, innovates and inspires. The School is a welcoming community, focused on the core learning needs of our students, our alumni, businesses, organisations and their leaders.

Aston Business School has one of the largest placement programmes in the UK with almost 600 undergraduates on placement each year. For employers, this offers a large, focussed group of highly motivated students to advertise placement opportunities to. We have been managing sandwich placements for over 30 years throughout the UK, Europe and beyond, and have a very professional and active Placement Office team dedicated to helping high calibre students find placements and helping employers to successfully fill their vacancies.

‘Aston Business School consistently provides high quality students to Xerox and have consistently been one of our top two universities for our Industrial Placement Recruitment programme. Again and again, Xerox managers tell us that the best students come from Aston; naturally bright, with a real enthusiasm to learn quickly, integrate into the business and get on, qualities that are so hard to find. Many of our Aston Business School Industrial Placement Students come back to Xerox after completing their degree; for us, this is the true test and a marker for how we are acquiring talent for the future. At Xerox, we look forward to a continued strong relationship with Aston University.’

Nick Gray
Xerox (UK) Ltd



The Placement Programme

Our placement students undertake 'real' work, with 'real' responsibility, typically working in areas such as:

- ▶ Accounts
- ▶ Finance
- ▶ Human Resources
- ▶ Marketing
- ▶ IT
- ▶ Operations
- ▶ Law
- ▶ General Management
- ▶ Purchasing
- ▶ Logistics/Supply Chain
- ▶ Economics/Statistics

Many companies are now selecting only a small number of universities to advertise their placement opportunities with and Aston is a priority university. Companies actively seek Aston Business School students as they are well prepared for their placement year. The practical nature of the modules in the first and second years mean students have worked with case studies, group projects and have taken part in a simulated business game, so can really hit the ground running in their placement company.

We have built up relationships with over 1000 companies and each year we advertise 2500-3000 opportunities to students on our dedicated placement website. Students can search the website by type of job, location or company name.

We prepare our students by running lectures and workshops on topics such as putting together a CV, tackling application forms, getting ready for assessment centres and psychometric tests, along with interview skills too. Students can book practice interviews with our placement staff. Many of these activities are supported by organisations across a wide range of sectors.

We welcome organisations onto campus to give presentations to students about placement opportunities or to run workshops on topics such as presentation skills or interview techniques.

Our placement resources room is an excellent facility where corporate brochures and materials can be displayed on behalf of organisations for use by our students during their preparation for making applications and attending interviews.

'Deloitte offers a number of students an opportunity to undertake a 12 month Industrial Placement in many of our recruiting offices within the UK. Deloitte has always found Aston Business School placement students to be of a high calibre, having obtained both the knowledge and skills required to work within a large organisation like ours from their university degree. Aston Business School placement students have often returned to a full-time career with Deloitte following graduation.'

Rachel Hewson
Deloitte LLP

Deloitte.

"The company trusted and valued me – more than I had expected as an undergraduate. With such high levels of communication, both inside and outside the company, the key personal development point for me has been in my interpersonal skills, and an understanding of how I fit into a large organisation".

Karl Fowler
Business and Management
undergraduate





‘For the past five years, the number of Aston students we hire for our Internship and Graduate Schemes has increased highlighting the high calibre of students Aston University has brought to Intel. We have hired both from the Business School and the Engineering School. The Placement and Careers offices are doing an outstanding job promoting our placement scheme, making the selection process easier for Intel. We value our relationship with Aston University and would like our number of Aston students to increase in the coming years for our schemes.’

Stephanie Lee
Intel Corporation UK Ltd



Key facts

'Aston's amazingly green campus is smack in the middle of Birmingham, it has the benefit of being part of a university that is heavily into industry and commerce.'

The A-Z of Business Schools,
The Independent, 2006

The placement year is an integral part of the degree and is worth 10% of the students' final degree result.

We assign each student a placement tutor who visits the student and meets the company supervisor too at the workplace. During the visit, the tutor will discuss progress and help to ensure that all parties are getting the maximum benefit from the experience.

Students have to complete a placement essay, keep a reflective learning journal of their progress and experiences in the company and write a report about their placement. We ask that supervisors support students with this work. In many cases, the students' essays will be of great value to your business.

The Placement Office team are on hand throughout the year for both you and the student, and we have an online system designed to keep placement students in touch with each other and the University while they are away.

'We currently have six Aston Business School students working in the mainstream division of our UK business. I have received incredibly positive feedback on the quality of work each of the students has produced. Moreover, as an ex Aston student myself, I am very proud of the contribution they are making to our organisation. In addition to this, to be representing an employer recruiting Aston students, I am equally proud of the contribution our organisation makes to the students' personal development and the experiences we are able to offer as a leading international leisure travel group.'

Thomas Barnett
TUI Travel plc



What do our students study?

BSc Single Honours (4 year sandwich programmes)

- ▶ Accounting for Management
- ▶ Business and Management
- ▶ Business Computing and IT
- ▶ Business Research and Consultancy
- ▶ Economics and Management
- ▶ Human Resource Management
- ▶ International Business and Economics
- ▶ International Business and Management
- ▶ Management and Strategy
- ▶ Marketing.

LLB Honours (4 year sandwich programme)

- ▶ Law with Management

BSc Joint Honours (4 year with integrated year abroad)

- ▶ International Business and French
- ▶ International Business and German
- ▶ International Business, French and German
- ▶ International Business and Spanish
- ▶ International Business, French and Spanish
- ▶ International Business, German and Spanish.

BSc Interdisciplinary Studies (3 year full time or 4 year sandwich)

- ▶ Business, studied alongside a non-business subject

What are the benefits to employers?

Approximately 30% of companies offer their placement students a job on graduation. Therefore the placement programme is a very efficient and cost effective way for employers to recruit graduates.

In addition, you may also benefit through having a fresh pair of eyes, along with new and innovative ideas. This extra resource can provide input into projects which may be on your 'wish-list' of projects to get off the ground.

If you decide to appoint an Aston Business School student, we would ask you to:

- ▶ treat the student as you would any other employee
- ▶ give them real responsibility
- ▶ appoint a supervisor for the student
- ▶ set clear objectives for the year and monitor the student's progress
- ▶ give students opportunities to develop their skills
- ▶ support the student with their coursework.

How much does it cost?

You will incur no recruitment advertising or agency costs and you will be getting an intelligent, motivated student for a year.

Furthermore, we can arrange facilities for you to use on campus, free of charge, to give presentations about placement opportunities within your organisation. Similarly, should you wish to hold interviews on campus we can arrange these facilities for you too.

The average salary for placements is approximately £14,000 per annum.

'Aston University is second to none. The Business School Placement Office provides a quality service that benefits both students and employers.'

Chelsea Peek
E.ON UK plc



Some companies pay very high salaries (20k per annum and more) whilst some public sector organisations such as local councils and health authorities may pay lower salaries. Students may also choose to work in the voluntary or charity sector too, on an unpaid basis. We aim for all of our students to be paid fairly for the work they do, whilst the decision on exactly what to pay remains with your organisation.

Do students work abroad?

A number of students wish to gain an international perspective on their studies and gain experience working within global organisations overseas. This option is available to all of our students. Those on our International Business and Management degree take their placement year overseas. Students on the International Business and Modern Languages degrees, with a high level of French, German or Spanish, will also take their year abroad. This is an integral component of these international degrees.

"The placement experience allowed me to learn about the operations of a multinational company and see first hand how issues such as human resources, strategic management and finance were handled on a large scale. I also learnt how to work effectively in a team and also how to interact with colleagues from a variety of cultures and backgrounds."

Laura Wilson
International Business and
Management undergraduate

When do students take placements?

Placement opportunities can be advertised to our students anytime from September to June in preparation for students to commence their placement with your organisation between June and September.

Students are available for a minimum of 48 weeks (maximum of 16 months). The placement must be completed by the end of September as students then return to the university to commence their final year.

Raising your profile on campus

Along with advertising your placement vacancies on our intranet, you could also enhance your profile by:

- ▶ giving a company presentation
- ▶ running a skills session/workshop (e.g. interview techniques, CV writing)
- ▶ sponsoring a student prize
- ▶ giving a guest lecture or company case study.

For more information on these activities, please contact the placement office on 0121 204 3033 or email

businessplacements@aston.ac.uk

"A major part of my placement was to be involved in a payroll project to increase the accuracy and efficiency of the overtime accrual, which was one of the most significant contributions during my placement."

Mukda Pratheepwatanawong
Accounting for Management undergraduate



‘At Indesit Company, we have been very impressed with the calibre of students from Aston Business School who have joined our Undergraduate Programme. Work placements give us a great opportunity to bring in new talent and fresh ideas into our business. In return, we aim to provide our students with invaluable experience of working within our multinational organization.’

Miriam Speidel
Indesit Company UK



‘The business school is highly rated.’

The Times University Guide, 2007

'HP have recruited some fantastic students on our 13 month Intern Programme from Aston Business School. We have a great relationship with the Placement Office and that has helped us recruit some of the university's top students.'

Louise Cooper
Hewlett-Packard Ltd





At PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) we historically recruit a number of students from Aston Business School onto our business placement scheme. These students come from a wide variety of degree backgrounds at Aston, and demonstrate key skills and competencies that PwC look for. We are always impressed with the calibre of Aston Business School students who demonstrate professionalism and a strong work ethic throughout their placement. We often have no hesitation in offering these students full-time positions upon graduation and can only encourage more keen Aston students to apply!

Imogen Goulding
Student Recruitment
PwC

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

If you have a placement you would like to advertise to Aston Business School students please email the job advert or job description to businessplacements@aston.ac.uk. A member of the Placement Office team will then contact you to discuss how we can support your requirements. You can also telephone us on [0121 204 3033](tel:01212043033).



Other Aston Business School Services

We offer a range of other services to individuals and business.

Research Centres and Research Groups

- ▶ Provide research and consultancy services in partnership with industry, commerce and the public sector that addresses the needs of markets, organisations, the people who work with them and those they serve
- ▶ Help organisations to develop organisational policies and practices

Contacts:

0121 204 3219 (PhD)
0121 204 3170 (DBA)
0121 204 3062/3095 (Research)
Website: www.abs.aston.ac.uk

MBA Programme

- ▶ Produces graduates of the highest calibre who are well informed, effective managers, able to analyse and solve complex business problems
- ▶ Supplies motivated graduates to carry out projects and consultancy services in collaboration with industry, commerce and the public sector
- ▶ Helps managers to develop a wider business perspective in order to progress within an organisation

- ▶ Helps companies to develop their talented managers/executives

Contacts:

0121 204 3100
Email: mba@aston.ac.uk
Website: www.astonmba.com

MSc Programme

- ▶ Produces graduates of the highest calibre with specialist knowledge and skills
- ▶ Supplies motivated graduates to carry out projects in collaboration with industry, commerce and the public sector
- ▶ Helps managers to develop a specialist business perspective in order to progress within an organisation
- ▶ Helps companies to develop their talented managers/executives

Contacts:

0121 204 4200
Email: abs-msc@aston.ac.uk
Website: www.astonmsc.com

Undergraduate Programme

- ▶ Produces business graduates of the highest calibre who have a range of international skills and competencies
- ▶ Supplies motivated students to carry out one year placements
- ▶ Provides access to professional accreditation

- ▶ Helps companies to plan their graduate recruitment activities (together with Aston Careers Service)
- ▶ Gives access to short-term placements, often during university vacations (with Aston University Job Shop and Graduate Advantage)

Contacts:

0121 204 3030
Email: absugentry@aston.ac.uk
Website: www.abs.aston.ac.uk/ug

Executive Development Programme

- ▶ Helps organisations enhance their organisational performance by developing talented managers/executives
- ▶ Helps managers/executives to develop a wider understanding of the needs of their organisation

Contacts:

0121 204 3011
Email: absexeced@aston.ac.uk
Website: www.aston.ac.uk/executive

Conference Centre

- ▶ Provides an innovative conference and business meetings venue in the heart of Birmingham

Contacts:

0121 204 3274
Email: conferenceaston@aston.ac.uk
Website: www.aston.ac.uk/conferences



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www.abs.aston.ac.uk/newweb/employers/placements

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