

# Embedding Engineering Work Experience into the Second Year Curriculum



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## Introduction

'Engineering Work Experience' is a 15 credit, 2nd year, new undergraduate course designed by the School of Engineering in partnership with the University's Careers Service. The course embeds careers education in the academic curriculum and provides students with a work-related learning experience through employer-hosted consultancy-style projects.

## What was the Rationale for Introducing the Course?

- To help students to develop their professional identity and work readiness at an early stage in engineering degree programmes.
- To enhance students' motivation, retention and progression within the School of Engineering.
- To embed employability into the student experience and prepare students for life beyond graduation.

## What Does the Course Cover?

The course enables students to practise key career and project management skills, most notably team work, negotiation, action planning and communication. During the course students are also supported to undertake their project work via a series of on-campus seminars. Sessions are delivered by academic staff, the University's Careers Service and the Scottish Institute for Enterprise.

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## How is the Course Assessed?

Students complete a group progress presentation (10%), final group presentation (20%), written group 1,000 word progress report (30%) and a written individual 1,000 word reflective report (40%).

## What do our Students and Host Employers think of the new Course?

Post-course evaluation questionnaire comments made by the students and host organisations on the content and delivery have been very positive.

*"I've learned the essentials of project management that I know I can use throughout my academic and work-life."*

Mechanical Engineering, Undergraduate Student

*"This course has improved my communication skills and gave me the confidence to apply for internships and jobs."*

Chemical Engineering, Undergraduate Student

*"The large number of projects sourced from employers, the range on offer and the overall engagement with employers is very impressive."*

Host Organisation

*"The course gives students real life experience of some of the issues they will face in the workplace. It also arms students with additional employability skills which are vital in today's employment market."*

Host Organisation

*"I thought the professionalism of the students throughout the course and especially when they presented was exceptional."*

Host Organisation

## Next Steps?

Comments gathered from staff, students and host organisations have provided evidence for enhancement for the academic year 2018-19 in the following ways, namely:

- To continue to attract a wide range of employer organisations and student project opportunities.
- Revise the order of employability workshop topics to enhance students' learning.



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