

CS MEng and BSc Software Engineering Industrial Placements

Marc Roper – LT14.13 – marc.roper@strath.ac.uk

- MEng:
 - You need to spend approximately 3 months on placement this (or next or both) summer.
 - Assessed by short presentation to staff and other students.
- Software Engineering:
 - You need to spend approximately 12 months on placement between 3rd and 4th year.
 - Assessed by report
 - Important - You need to inform SAAS (or whoever) as you are still charged 50% fees
- Its a highly beneficial opportunity
 - Skills (technical and 'soft'), CV, money...
 - Often a job at the end of it

What's Involved and What's a Valid Placement

- The nature of the placement is not specifically defined
 - Some involvement with software development projects – the deeper the better
- What it involves will depend on the organisation – they won't make you do anything you can't!
 - Primary role of organisation again unimportant
- No geographical constraints!
- If in doubt check with me before applying
- Note - some companies only take students in their penultimate year

Finding a Placement

- It is your responsibility to find a placement
 - You are going to be employed and it has to be something you want to do (and the company must want you to do it)
- As a starting point take a look at the list of companies that have offered placements in the past (link from my home page)
- Best source of information is the Careers Service
- Do not put it off – application time starts now!
 - You need to actively, and enthusiastically, start looking.
- Go to talks from employers
- Go to talks organised by the Careers Service
 - Specialised sessions planned on CV writing, interview technique, assessment centres etc... Use them!

How to Find a Placement - Tips

- Apply early and apply often
- Don't be too picky!
 - Be flexible/open-minded about type of work, organisation etc.
- Be prepared to move
- Use the Careers Service
 - Get your CV checked, practice your interview technique etc. etc.
 - Lots of common-sense advice, such as CV filename and type
- Give yourself plenty of time to fill in application forms
- Research any organisation you apply to and make sure you are committed to applying

What to do now

- If you've not already, start looking!
 - Watch out for emails about jobs,talks graduate fair etc.
 - Register with the Careers Service, e-Placement Scotland etc.
- Again, if you have not done so already, write your CV and get it checked
- Finally, please keep me informed of progress
 - and keep in touch with me while on placement (just the occasional email will do)
- Any questions?