



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

School of Engineering



Industrial Placements

Chemical Engineering Industrial Project

The industrial project in Chemical Engineering can be undertaken by MEng students in their final year. It consists of a piece of original work in chemical engineering or a related discipline within an industrial context. The scope of industrial projects varies widely - some are based on production facilities and involve investigation of plant operation, modelling and analysis of performance, others are laboratory based involving experimentation, others are purely theoretical, and some are a blend of all these elements.

Each industrial project has two elements

1. A substantial project involving the student in independent analysis of a problem, and giving him or her a degree of responsibility for defining the scope and conduct of the project. The project is carried out at the site of the industrial sponsor over a period of approximately six months.
2. The presentation of the work in form of a poster and a written report.

The student will normally start in June and work with the industrial sponsor for six months returning to university for their final semester in January.

The project must be a self-contained piece of work carried out entirely by the student in the available six month period. The project needs to be academic in general conception i.e. with some theoretical as well as practical content. Many students end up working on more than one project, with either a common theme running through them or with one main project being identified on which to focus the report.

The scope of the project is agreed in advance between the University and the industrial sponsor, and there is one industrial and one academic supervisor, both of whom take part in the assessment of the student's work. A non-disclosure agreement between The University and the industrial sponsor can be set up to cover the academic supervisor of the project. However, this cannot preclude the presentation, discussion, and marking of the report within the University.

Degree Programmes

- MEng Chemical Engineering (5 years)

Timeline

- Placement Advertising: September - June of 4th year
- Placement Timing: June - December of 5th year. Minimum duration 6 months.

Key Contacts

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Chemical Engineering

Electronics & Electrical Engineering Industrial Project

During the final year of their degree, M.Eng students may choose to undertake their final year project within a company. This allows the students to gain experience of current engineering practice and enables them to appreciate the relevance of their academic studies by allowing them to apply the knowledge and skills they have learnt at university to real-life engineering problems. The projects undertaken by students while on placement span a very broad range, both in terms of nature and content, and accordingly what the students gain from their work experience will vary from placement to placement. The project provides the student with an opportunity to plan, carry out, report and critically evaluate an engineering design or research programme, and should enable the student to demonstrate initiative and personal responsibility.

The project undertaken by the student while on placement is chosen by the company, subject to four basic requirements:

- it should be relevant to the degree subject;
- it should be at an appropriate level (suitable for a new graduate engineer);
- it should give the student some scope for using their own initiative and;
- it should preferably be based around a single theme so that a coherent final report can be written by the student.

The Industrial Project should develop skills such as time and resource management, team-work, communication, use of IT facilities and creative problem solving, although it is appreciated that the extent to which some of these topics are addressed will vary between placements.

The student will normally start in June and work with the industrial sponsor for six months returning to university for their final semester in January. The placement student will typically be a company employee for the duration of the project. An report is submitted in January on return to the University.

Degree Programmes

- MEng Electronics and Electrical Engineering (5 years)
- MEng Electronics and Computer Science (5 years)

Timeline

- Placement Advertising: September - April of 4th year
- Placement Timing: June - December of 5th year. Minimum duration 6 months.

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Electronics and Electrical Engineering

Mechanical Engineering Industrial Placement

All students undertaking a Mechanical Engineering M.Eng degree have the option to spend six months working in either a company or at an overseas academic institution during their fourth year. If the placement is in industry, it is important that the student is involved in the company activities, and not just an observer. They are expected to carry out work at graduate level, with all the attendant disciplines and responsibilities. The broad aims of the industrial placement are to complement the academic base, with emphasis on:

- understanding engineering resources and their efficient utilisation;
- extending the engineering application experience;
- understanding the financial and commercial activities of an engineering business;
- the importance of satisfying the customer's requirements;
- developing the ability to undertake technical risk evaluation;
- a professional approach to engineering; and
- accepting professional and ethical responsibility for decisions.

The placement will usually begin in January and must last for a minimum of six months and the student is typically a company employee for the duration of the placement. The student returns to the university in September to complete their studies. The placement is assessed through two reports, a poster and a presentation to the academic supervisor. In addition, the student is asked to keep in touch with their academic supervisor monthly.

The industrial supervisor is asked to assist in the assessment of the student's performance during the placement. This normally takes the form of a discussion with the academic supervisor and completion of a feedback form at the time of the final report submission. Towards the end of the placement, the academic supervisor will visit the placement company (or arrange an extended video call). The student will give their presentation during this time and the industrial supervisor should participate in the discussion.

Degree Programmes

- MEng Mechanical Engineering (5 years)
- MEng Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (5 years)

Timeline

- Placement Advertising: September - December of 4th year
- Placement Timing: January - August of 4th year. Minimum duration 6 months.

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Mechanical Engineering