

Building your work experience with virtual placements

Virtual placements eliminate visa restrictions, reduce relocation costs, and provide access to global companies. They're particularly valuable for building international experience while studying at Warwick, and many companies now offer permanent remote positions post-graduation.

Key Benefits

Global market access, flexible scheduling with studies, lower financial barriers, digital skills development, and broader networking opportunities across time zones.

Specialised Virtual Placement Platforms and companies with VIs

- **Forage:** Free virtual work experiences with major companies (JP Morgan, BCG, Deloitte)
- **InsideSherpa:** Virtual internships with real company projects
- **Parker Dewey:** Micro-internships and short-term virtual projects
- **Virtual Internships:** Dedicated platform for remote internships with global companies

Global Companies with Virtual Programs

- **Tech:** Google, Microsoft, Amazon, IBM (virtual internships and projects)
- **Consulting:** Deloitte, PwC, McKinsey (virtual case competitions and experiences)
- **Finance:** JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs (virtual insight programs)
- **General:** Unilever, Nestlé, Siemens (virtual graduate programs)

TeamWork Platform: Your Gateway to Global Virtual Experience

What is TeamWork?

TeamWork is a virtual work experience platform connecting students with real company projects worldwide. It offers structured, mentored experiences with leading organizations across multiple industries.

How to Maximize TeamWork Opportunities

Complete your profile thoroughly: Highlight Warwick education, international background, and relevant skills

Choose strategic projects: Select experiences aligned with your career goals and degree subject

Engage actively: Participate in all sessions, ask questions, and network with mentors

Document everything: Keep detailed records of projects, skills developed, and connections made

TeamWork Success Tips

Apply early when new programmes launch. Tailor applications to specific company projects. Highlight your international perspective as an asset. Follow up professionally with mentors and team members. Request LinkedIn recommendations after successful completion

Application Strategies for Virtual Placements

Highlight digital communication skills (Zoom, Teams, Slack proficiency). Emphasize self-management abilities and independent project experience. Include an international perspective and time zone flexibility. Showcase technical proficiency relevant to remote work tools. Address why virtual placement suits you as an international student. Demonstrate understanding of remote work challenges and your solutions. Highlight the global perspective you bring to the team. Show enthusiasm for digital collaboration and continuous learning

Interview Preparation

Test your technology setup beforehand (camera, microphone, internet). Prepare examples of successful remote collaboration from group projects. Practice articulating how you stay motivated and organized remotely. Research the company's remote work culture and values

Essential Skills for Virtual Placement Success

Digital Communication

- **Written clarity:** Practice concise, professional email and message communication
- **Video presence:** Develop confident on-camera presentation skills
- **Cultural sensitivity:** Understand communication styles across different cultures and time zones

Technical Proficiency

- **Collaboration tools:** Master Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Slack, Google Workspace
- **Project management:** Learn Trello, Asana, and Monday.com basics
- **File sharing:** Understand Dropbox, SharePoint, and Google Drive protocols
- **Time tracking:** Familiarise yourself with Toggl, Clockwise, or similar tools
- **Self-Management:** Time zone management: Use tools like World Clock or Time Zone Converter
- **Productivity systems:** Develop personal organization methods (Pomodoro, time-blocking)
- **Workspace setup:** Create a professional, distraction-free work environment
- **Goal setting:** Practice SMART goal setting and progress tracking

Making the Most of Your Virtual Placement

Week 1-2: Foundation Building

- Set up a professional workspace and test all technology.
- Establish a communication rhythm with supervisors and teammates.
- Understand company culture, processes, and expectations.
- Create personal learning objectives for the placement

Ongoing: Active Engagement

- Participate fully in virtual meetings and team activities.
- Ask thoughtful questions and seek feedback regularly.
- Take initiative on projects and suggest improvements.
- Network actively with colleagues across departments

Final Weeks: Maximizing Impact

- Document achievements and quantify impact where possible
- Request feedback and recommendations from supervisors
- Present final work professionally with clear outcomes
- Maintain professional relationships beyond the placement period

Overcoming Virtual Placement Challenges

- **Time Zone Issues:** Core hours overlap: Identify when your schedule aligns with company hours
- **Flexible scheduling:** Negotiate alternative meeting times when needed. Asynchronous work: Master effective handovers and status updates
- **Communication Barriers:** Over-communicate initially: Better to provide too much information than too little.
- **Clarify expectations:** Ask specific questions about deliverables and deadlines. Regular check-ins: Schedule consistent one-on-ones with supervisors.

Technical Difficulties

- **Backup plans:** Have alternative internet, devices, and communication methods ready.
- **IT support:** Know how to access the company's technical support quickly. Professional setup: Invest in good lighting, audio equipment, and stable internet

Leveraging Virtual Placement for Future Success

- **Building Your Professional Network:** Connect on LinkedIn with supervisors, mentors, and team members. Join company alumni networks if available. Attend virtual company events and networking sessions. Maintain relationships through periodic professional updates.
- **Skill Documentation: Portfolio development:** Create showcases of your virtual work projects
- **Certification tracking:** Record any training or certifications completed. Reference gathering: Request written recommendations and performance reviews. Impact measurement: Quantify achievements and contributions clearly