Careers Service Placement Year: Overseas Placements

Getting approval for an overseas placement will involve a few extra steps. We recommend that you try to arrange your placement as early as possible. If you have an overseas placement approved, we will require you to undertake a compulsory pre-departure health and safety briefing and to fill in some additional travel risk assessments.

Where you can go

We are flexible with where you can go on your placement. Our main requirement is that you MUST have internet access in order to undertake the Careers Service Placement Year module. You will need to check that this is feasible with your placement host before you go through the application process.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) web pages give up to date travel advice. As a University, we reserve the right not to approve travel to any countries, or regions, where the FCO has set amber or red warnings.

Key factors to consider

Placements overseas can be significantly more expensive and challenging than those in the UK. We’ve put together the following information and resources to help you in your search for a placement.

Finance

Travel costs

You may need to budget for flights or transport to the country you’re working in and travel expenses whilst you’re on placement.

Cost of living

This will vary depending on the country and current exchange rates. Numbeo provides detailed breakdowns and comparisons of the cost of living in cities and countries worldwide.

Accommodation

You will need to have accommodation confirmed before you travel to start your placement.
Access to local bank accounts
Find out from your placement provider how you will be paid, and whether you will need to get a local bank account. If you open a local account, make sure it's with a bank that you can get easy access to!

Costs of insurances and visas
Make sure you research these when looking at roles as costs differ from country to country and across the different types of visas. Please see the sections below on insurance and visas for links to further information.

Erasmus funding
EU and EEA nationals who want to do a work placement in the EU may be eligible for funding available through Erasmus+

The deadline to apply to the University for Erasmus funding is the end of January. Funding is not guaranteed, even if you apply in time.

You don't have to have a placement confirmed to apply for funding, but you should let the Careers Service know that you intend to find one or are in the process.

Information on how to apply is available on the Study Abroad and Exchanges web page. If you have any questions, please contact erasmus@ncl.ac.uk

Income tax
If you undertake a paid work placement abroad, it is your responsibility to check whether you will have to pay income tax in the UK for the relevant tax year. You are advised to notify HMRC and consider your UK tax situation (for example, whether you will be due a UK tax refund or need to complete a tax return) before going abroad.

Have a look at http://www.taxguideforstudents.org.uk/going-abroad for more information.

Insurance

University
The University insurance policy for students travelling abroad for a placement includes details on what’s covered, who to contact and what to do in an emergency situation. You may still want to consider taking out your own insurance if the University policy does not meet your medical and personal possession needs.
**Employer**

Research the country and the company you intend to work for to understand what insurance cover they require or provide for employees. For your placement to be approved for the Careers Service Placement Year Module, host companies must provide appropriate insurance cover to protect you for any injury or harm caused to you or others while on placement. This can be, but is not limited to, Public/General or equivalent liability insurance.

You may also need to obtain civil liability and accident insurances depending on the country and role you’re applying for.

If you need to make your own insurance arrangements, there is support available to understand what you need and how to get it via the University’s Insurance Office. Please contact cs.placementyear@ncl.ac.uk with your query initially.

**Visas and work permits**

The FCO website provides information on whether you need a visa or a work permit and how to obtain it under the ‘Entry Requirements’ section of the Foreign Travel Advice pages.

We would suggest that you and/or the company only apply for a visa or work permit after your placement has been approved by the Careers Service. This is in case there are issues with the placement or the placement host.

Consider the maximum time that a visa/work permit application can take and work to that timescale. Please note that while there is a separate deadline for approval documentation to be received by the Placements Team, this is not applicable to visas and work permits. These just need to be in place for when you are travelling to the country. We will require proof of right to work or travel to the specified country before you go on placement.

Country specific information can be found via the links on our International Jobs page.

International students thinking of doing an overseas placement should contact the visa team about how this will impact their current UK visa.

**Language**

If you’re looking at applying for placements in a country where you don’t speak the language or just want to brush up your skills, visit the Language Resource Centre
here at the University. They have self-study resources available to students and can offer language learning advice including one-to-one sessions, weekly surgeries and conversation groups to help you out.

**Cultural differences**

This can be an under-researched area when looking at applying for overseas placements.

Working culture varies across the world, as do benefits such as holidays. Make sure you consider this, especially if you are expecting to take time off over UK holidays such as Christmas or Easter. These may not be holidays where you are working.

The country profile resources on our [International Jobs](#) page are useful starting points for your research.

**Medical considerations**

**Vaccinations**

Check the NHS [fitfortravel](#) website to see whether vaccinations are required for your host country.

**Prescriptions**

Find out if prescriptions are available in your host country.

Support is available to research this from the University Insurance Office so please get in touch with [cs.placementyear@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:cs.placementyear@ncl.ac.uk) if you would like more information.

**Access to healthcare**

Find out if there will be easy access to medical care where you are based. You may need to get private medical insurance in order to access it.

If you are working in the EU, make sure you have an up to date [EHIC card](#).