

Dissertation with Placement for Postgraduate students in The School of Global Studies

What is a Dissertation with Placement?

At the postgraduate level (on both full and part-time masters courses) there is an opportunity for you to undertake a research placement of between 6 weeks to 3 months. During this time you will be expected to conduct primary research for your *Dissertation with a Placement*.

What are the benefits of doing a placement?

Placements give students the opportunity to gain skills specific to their subject or industry of choice as well as the employability skills required for real-life work. It also increases their knowledge of an industry or sector, allowing them to make better informed decisions about future career choices. It builds on the self-management and problem solving skills typically gained at university, with the ability to work collaboratively.

Who can do a Placement?

All students taking a master's degree in the School of Global Studies are eligible to do a placement as long as they have shown an appropriate level of commitment to their studies, measured through both attendance and attainment. Normally, students with failed or non-submitted modules will not be allowed to undertake the dissertation with placement. The final decision rests with the MA Convenors (Becky Prentice/Dinah Rajak or the Director of MA Studies (International Relations), Paul Kirby.

How do you find a placement?

You will be responsible for finding your own placement. In our experience, as research placements are driven by your own interests, you are best placed to choose the appropriate placement organisation.

There are two ways to identify a placement:

- Either decide on a research topic and try and identify an organisation to match your research
- OR
- Select particular organisation(s) you might want to work for and choose a research area which ties in with the organisation's mission

What kind of work will I do?

The role you have at your chosen placement organisation can involve anything from marketing, ~~to te~~ fundraising, to office work. Remember it is essential that you have agreement from the placement organisation that you will be able to do conduct primary research for your dissertation whilst working there. Examples of primary research might include collecting data~~e~~, interviews, surveys using questionnaires or even looking at archival material.

There are occasions when the placement organisation may be working on a project which is directly related to your dissertation topic and could provide the material you need for the dissertation. This

would have to be negotiated with the placement organisation to make sure that they are happy for you to use the material for your research.

When does the placement take place?

The primary placement period is during June, July and August. In certain circumstances, if the organisation is local, it is possible to undertake the placement earlier and spread hours out across the academic year but this would need to be agreed in advance with the Placement Officer.

Will I be paid for the work I do whilst on placement?

Placements are generally unpaid although there are some instances where organisations will cover travel costs.

Is there any funding available?

Currently there is no funding available.

What kind of support will be offered?

The Placement Officer is available to support you throughout the academic year to ensure you have the best chance of success with securing a placement.

What is the administrative process involved in setting up a *Dissertation with Placement? What do I need to do?*

There are several forms that need completed. These include:

A Memorandum of Understanding - it is a three way agreement between the university, organisation and student

Risk Assessments – these are to ensure you are safe whilst on your placement and cover all aspects of health and safety including Foreign Office guidance

Ethical Review – this review is conducted to make sure that any vulnerable groups you are working with are protected and that your research is ethical

Most of the forms are completed online on a database.

What happens if I have arranged a placement and have completed all the relevant forms, but then have to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances?

That's fine and should be no problem. You will just be transferred on to doing a straight dissertation.

What kind of organisations have students gone to?

We have had students going to a variety of different organisations like Save the Children, Brighton and Hove Energy Services, Maternity World Wide, Camco Clean Energy,

Ashinaga Uganda, Stonewall, Educare and so on

Can I go anywhere in the world for my placement?

Yes, as long as this complies with the travel advice issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>) and that risk assessments have been assessed and signed off by the Head of School.