WORK PLACEMENTS
A huge range of possibilities to explore. The choice is yours...
All of the courses we offer are available with the option of a paid placement year in industry that forms a recognised part of the degree.

### COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSc Mathematics with a Placement Year</td>
<td>G101</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Mathematics and Economics with a Placement Year</td>
<td>GL12</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Mathematics with Finance and Investment Banking with a Placement Year</td>
<td>G1N4</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Mathematics and Meteorology with a Placement Year</td>
<td>GF20</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Mathematics and Psychology with a Placement Year</td>
<td>GC19</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Mathematics and Statistics with a Placement Year</td>
<td>GG17</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Computational Mathematics with a Placement Year</td>
<td>G1G5</td>
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<td>The above courses are 4 years full-time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMath Mathematics with a Placement Year</td>
<td>G104</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMath Mathematics and Meteorology with a Placement Year</td>
<td>GFC8</td>
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<tr>
<td>The above courses are 5 years full-time.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students who decide not to take a placement year are encouraged to take a summer placement instead.

This brochure contains the reflections of both recent and past placement students alongside the thoughts of a placement and graduate employer. It aims to provide you with a taste of the placement experience, the industries in which you could work and the skills you could acquire.

### WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We encourage all of our students to take a paid year placement as part of their degree. For the past 2 years all of our mathematics year placement students achieved either a 1st class or 2.1 degree result.

We have a dedicated Placement Coordinator who is part of the wider careers team, so students can access all the placement support they need, from guidance on which industry to target, to preparing for their first professional interview. There are a wide range of placements open to highly numerate students. Previous students have worked in industries such as banking and finance, medicine and health, technology and the civil service.

If students decide not to pursue a year placement we strongly encourage them to consider a summer placement as an alternative, and support them appropriately. Our summer placement students who graduated in 2018 all achieved either a 1st class or 2.1 degree result and had accepted job offers by graduation.

The University runs the Reading Internship Scheme (RIS) which offers students the chance to apply for exclusive internships with start-up organisations, small companies and small charities.

In addition to RIS the University also runs an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme which gives students the chance to work with staff on research projects across the University during their summer break.

‘The placement coordinator from the department introduced me to a range of careers and opportunities where my degree course can directly be implemented in real life. Her professional advice not only helped me to decide what I want to do but also helped me to get where I want to be.’

Jawan Thapa, BSc Mathematics with a Placement Year
### SOPHIE PARKER
GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Statistician

> 'I have made a network of contacts and gained valuable experience that's directly related to my course – making third year slightly easier, and I'm even more employable than I was!'

**SOPHIE'S ROLE**
- Based in the neuroscience department at GSK, it involves looking at data from clinical trials and seeing whether a drug is effective or not.
- Contributing to meetings to discuss both how trials are run and the findings from them.
- Use of SAS software to program the trial data.

### DANIEL ORWA
HSBC Insurance, Actuarial Intern

> 'My placement experience is really helping in graduate interviews as I can give examples of my work and have a meaningful conversation about the industry.'

**DANIEL'S ROLE**
- Maintain/amend/update several insurance and financial models.
- Attend pricing and performance meetings, write and distribute the minutes and action logs from the meetings.
- Campaign costing, projects analytics support, rate reviews and commission checking.

### HANNAH GASKELL
Public Health England (PHE), Radiation Protection Scientist

> 'As impressive as a degree is, a placement displays a whole set of transferable skills that are attractive to employers and will allow you to stand out on a long list of applicants.'

**HANNAH'S ROLE**
- Use of a probabilistic risk assessment tool within a geographical information system, which uses mathematical models to predict the path of a radioactive plume following a release into the atmosphere.
- On completion of my placement I will have produced a report and a paper to be published.

### SOPHIE NORRIS
SAP, Business Operations Analyst

> 'A placement is a great opportunity to try out a career path, especially if you are unsure what you want to do and what the opportunities are for a maths student.'

**SOPHIE'S ROLE**
- Analysing sales progress and providing daily sales forecast intelligence.
- Supporting and driving Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database usage.
- Building weekly market unit forecasts.
- Liaising with other departments, providing the chance to get an understanding of other business areas.
TOM PINDER
Institute for Environmental Analytics, Data Analyst

‘My summer placement has helped me to identify which career path I’d like to pursue after my degree. It has enabled me to effectively develop skills in real-world scenarios.’

TOM’S ROLE
Analysing large datasets using statistical and geographical packages in Python & R.

Working collaboratively within a team to reach common goals.

‘Having the placement experience gave me an invaluable head start in my career, and opened up opportunities for leadership and new challenges that would certainly not have been possible without my placement. I knew very little about the industry before starting my placement, but over the course of the year I was convinced that it was what I wanted to do for a career. I really enjoyed the work and the workplace environment, and it provided the motivation to pursue an MSc prior to returning to my placement employer after graduating.’
Tom Vaux, Department of Mathematics and Statistics Graduate

EMPLOYER THOUGHTS
‘Quintiles® has been employing mathematics and statistics placement students for more than 20 years. When something goes on for that long, something must be good about it, right? Right. In our UK Biostatistics department in Reading, around a third of our current permanent staff started off with us as placement students; and another third had placements elsewhere before joining us after completing their degree (or Masters). I think that says something about how we treat our placement students (hopefully, very kindly, providing an excellent experience while also helping them on their way to a successful degree!) and also about how we value having them in our department (e.g. they provide excellent opportunities for our budding young mentors). A sound education is great, and short training courses are also important, but nothing beats real-life job experience when deciding who to hire. In our environment, it’s the industry norm for statisticians to have at least a good degree in mathematics and/or statistics, and maybe also a Masters so, to stand out from the crowd, that one year of placement experience can go a long way towards influencing the hiring decision.’
Dr Kerry Gordon, Executive Director, Biostatistics Europe/Japan
Quintiles®

TIM DAVIS
The Bulmershe School, Teaching Assistant

‘I have had a fantastic time on my summer placement and it has affirmed my desire to go into teaching after university.’

TIM’S ROLE
Working with different teachers in the department, supporting them in the classroom with a variety of ages and abilities.

Giving extra support to pupils working in small groups.

Being with a form group to experience the pastoral side of school.

‘My summer placement has helped me to identify which career path I’d like to pursue after my degree. It has enabled me to effectively develop skills in real-world scenarios.’

SUMMER PLACEMENTS

AFTER GRADUATION

TIM’S ROLE
Working with different teachers in the department, supporting them in the classroom with a variety of ages and abilities.

Giving extra support to pupils working in small groups.

Being with a form group to experience the pastoral side of school.
Insight Programmes are aimed at first year students during their vacations to enable them find out how an organisation operates.

“My Spring Week with the Financial Conduct Authority gave me the opportunity to gain an insight into what the financial industry is really like as well as working and commuting in London and experiencing all that the City has to offer. I was able to network with like-minded people and learn about the different divisions in this corporate office environment. I had first-hand experience of the recruitment process through successfully applying to this competitive insight programme. I enhanced my presentation skills, confidence, CV and built a new network of helpful contacts for the future. I’d recommend insight programmes to anyone wanting to find out more about an industry or organisation before applying for a summer or year placement, they are a great way to get a foot in the door and find out if the work really appeals to you.”

Georgia Nicklin BSc Mathematics & Economics

WORK PLACEMENTS

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