

ASET

*Integrating Work and Learning*



# Placements Work – The Empirical Evidence

***Placement students are 4.6% more likely to be awarded 1<sup>st</sup> class honours and 6.0% more likely to achieve a 2.1 than their non-placement counterparts.***

***Students who undertook a placement are 9.3% more likely to be in full-time employment and 1.2% less likely to be unemployed than those who did not.***

ASET commissioned the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) to collate data on placements in the UK. The results show that in the academic year 2004/5 there were 119,103 students on sandwich courses (thick, thin and other) spread across 94 institutions. By comparing both the academic performance and leavers' destinations of sandwich with non-sandwich students, the dramatic benefit of placements on students' final grades and future employability can be perceived.

## **Academic Performance**

Students who take placements achieve higher final academic qualifications than non-placement students.

### **Sandwich students**

Firsts	15.1%
2.1	50.8%
2.2	27.0%
Thirds	4.2%
Unclassified	2.9%

### **Non-sandwich students**

Firsts	10.5%
2.1	44.8%
2.2	31.0%
Thirds	6.9%
Unclassified	6.8%

## **Employability**

Leavers who have undertaken placements are more likely to be in full-time paid work and less likely to be unemployed.

### **Sandwich students**

Full-time paid work	65.7%
Part-time paid work	3.9%
Voluntary work	0.4%
Work and further study	8.7%
Further study only	10.4%
Unemployed	4.8%
Not available for employment	5.2%
Other	0.9%

### **Non-sandwich students**

Full-time paid work	56.4%
Part-time paid work	7.6%
Voluntary work	0.9%
Work and further study	8.4%
Further study only	15.5%
Unemployed	6.0%
Not available for employment	4.1%
Other	1.1%

This complements the University of Manchester and UMIST survey of placement providing employers (2004) which showed that 69% of placement students were offered graduate jobs, 80% of employers recruited placement students with the primary aim of attracting them back to permanent jobs, and 40% of annual graduate intake from these employers consisted of former placement students.

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