



**University of Brighton**

**ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**PLACEMENTS WORKING GROUP**

**Typology of Placements in the University of Brighton**

**1. Introduction**

It was agreed at the first meeting of the Placements Working Group held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2003 to develop a typology of placements in the University of Brighton, to complement the Group's agreed definition of a placement (which is that outlined in the 'Placements Learning' section of the QAA Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Education). It is anticipated that this will assist in the development of a set of guidelines for the operation and management of placements, so that these guidelines can be implemented across a range of different placements.

A survey of all courses in the University which include a placement element was undertaken in order to identify the range of different placements types, and this provided the basis for the development of the proposed typology.

**2. Outcome of Survey and Development of Typology**

The survey of placements indicated that there are two key variables affecting all placements in the University. These are:

- i) The duration of the placement (ie whether the placement is short or long)
- ii) The level of involvement the University has in the placement (ie whether the University has a high or low level of involvement in the placement activity)

**3. The Typology**

From these two variables, it is possible to identify the following four main placement types. It is recognised, however, that not all placements will fit neatly into one of the four types.

<i>High</i>	<b>Type A Placements</b> High level University involvement Short duration	<b>Type B Placements</b> High level University involvement Long duration	
<i>Low</i>	<b>Type C Placements</b> Low level University involvement Short duration	<b>Type D Placements</b> Low level University involvement Long duration	
	<i>Short</i>	<i>&lt; One Semester &gt;</i>	<i>Long</i>

## **Type A Placements: short duration, high University involvement**

### *Characteristics of Type A Placements:*

- Often driven by Professional and Statutory Body requirements
- Less than one semester in length
- Often multiple placements throughout the duration of the course (usually with different placement providers)
- Normally unpaid
- Normally organised by the University
- Normally have the support of a designated Placements Officer or similar
- Students tend to be visited by placement tutors
- Students may have the support of a mentor or equivalent within the host employer
- Normally (but not exclusively) UK based
- Normally compulsory

### *Type A Placements include:*

- Initial Teacher Education courses
- Health Profession courses (Podiatry, Physiotherapy etc)
- Nursing courses

## **Type B Placements: long duration, high University involvement**

### *Characteristics of Type B Placements:*

- Provide opportunities to gain work experience or driven by Professional and Statutory Body requirements
- Tend to be either traditional sandwich year placements (48 to 52 weeks) or SOCRATES/ERASMUS study placements
- Students tend to stay with the same placement provider for the duration of the placement
- Normally paid (or provided with funding from SOCRATES/ERASMUS)
- Normally organised by the University
- Normally have the support of a designated Placements Officer or similar
- Students tend to be visited by placement tutors
- UK, EU or International based
- May be optional or compulsory

### *Type B Placements include:*

- Business degree courses
- Service Management degree courses
- SOCRATES/ERASMUS exchanges
- Science and Engineering degree courses
- Computing degree courses
- Mathematics degree courses

## **Type C Placements: short duration, low University involvement**

### *Characteristics of Type C Placements:*

- Provide opportunities to gain work experience or are of an observational nature
- Less than one semester in length, and usually between two and six weeks duration
- Normally unpaid
- Normally organised by the student
- Tend not to have the support of a designated Placements Officer; instead support is provided by the relevant module co-ordinator
- Normally (but not exclusively) UK based
- May be optional or compulsory

*Type C Placements include:*

- MPharm
- HND Business
- BA (Hons) Sport Journalism
- CMIS Media and Library Studies courses
- Graphic Design/Illustration courses

**Type D Placements: long duration, low University involvement**

*Characteristics of Type D Placements:*

- Provide opportunities to gain work experience
- Up to one year in length (36 – 52 weeks)
- Students may be with more than one placement provider during the placement period
- May be paid or unpaid
- Normally organised by the student
- Tend not to have the support of a designated Placements Officer or similar
- Normally EU or International based
- May be optional or compulsory

*Type D Placements include:*

- BA (Hons) Language Studies – year abroad
- BA (Hons) International Business

February 2004