

# Micro-Placements

## Actively supporting student experience, progression and employability through creative curriculum design

Micro-Placements are an exciting way for students to gain professional experience via short summer placements with a wide range of London-based employers, and which offer alternative career exploration. With a focus on engaging underrepresented student groups, we are proud that the Micro-Placements has historically supported our diverse student demographic with 45% of the 19/20 cohort from a widening participation background and 72% from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background.



### Development of the module

Micro-Placements was transitioned from a non-credit bearing elective to one that offers students 15-credits. To attach credits, the module went under increased scrutiny to ensure the student experience, progression and quality was maintained whilst supporting the success of our employability KPI. This led to the module undergoing significant structural change which saw it span across two academic sessions rather than being contained to a single academic session .

### How we meet quality requirements

- Development of academically robust assessments to ensure that learning outcomes are met supplemented with clear assessment guidance and support to maximise student success
- Engaging with employer partners to provide clear expectations and direction supplemented by meticulously quality assuring all projects to ensure that learning outcomes and skills development objectives are met

Providing specially created marking guidance to support academic markers in assessing assessment pieces submitted by their students.

### Covid-19 pandemic

Our response to the pandemic was immediate and clear; enable the students to undertake a professional level experience remotely. With that, we adopted emerging technologies and made adjustments to our processes and paperwork to reflect the change of delivery mode. In the short term, this enabled us to continue our delivery and in the longer term, future proof the module whilst still contributing to our strategic aims.

### Impact on delivery

#### Virtual workshops

Virtual workshops with evening delivery allowed 600+ students to attend from across the globe.

#### Digital assessment centres

Digital assessment centres and preparation sessions allowed us to support students from under-represented backgrounds at scale as room bookings were no longer necessary.

#### Recorded interviews

Recorded interviews instead of face to face provided a more realistic reflection of graduate schemes and was resource-efficient so more time could be given to providing feedback.

### Positive impact on accountability...

Evidence suggests that where experiences are integrated within a module, rather than extra-curricular, student drop-out rates are dramatically reduced from 44.5% to 3.3% (Vergel et al, 2018) with a long-term positive outcome on career outcomes Shury et al, 2017.