



Ollscoil  
Teicneolaíochta  
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic  
Technological  
University

# Industry Placement Brochure

## Connemara



School of  
**Design and  
Creative Arts**

 @ATUConnemaraCampus

 @ATU\_Connemara

 atuconnemara

 [www.atuconnemara](http://www.atuconnemara)

## About ATU Connemara

The ATU Connemara campus is regarded both nationally and internationally as a leading provider of third-level courses in furniture design, making and technology and teacher education (Design Graphics and Construction). The campus is home to over 240 students studying five different degree courses and apprenticeship training in its state-of-the-art workshop facilities with the most advanced machinery and computer technology.

The Connemara campus has links to major furniture design and manufacturing companies around the globe, allowing students to avail of work placement opportunities with leaders in furniture design and manufacturing. Graduates are recognised for their innovative, creative and responsive approach to projects. They frequently win, and are shortlisted for, national and international awards which is testament to their skills and abilities.

## About Industry Placement

Students on the Furniture Design and Manufacture & Furniture Making and Architectural Woodworking programmes take their year three as work based.

This Industry Placement is an accredited period of professional practice-based learning involving a partnership between the host company, student and ATU Connemara. Students who undertake Industry Placement spend their third year in a company within the furniture and wood manufacturing industry in Ireland or overseas working four days a week with one day allocated to study. Industry Placement also offers a rich opportunity for learning and collaboration between host companies and a higher education institution.

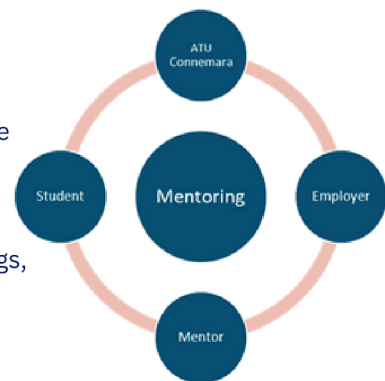
Whilst on Industry Placement, students should be given the opportunity to link theory to practice with the assistance of a company appointed mentor. The mentor will help the student to achieve specific competencies and tasks related to the learning outcomes of their degree programme.

To support the student in their work-based learning, ATU Connemara have chosen the PebblePad Learning Journey platform to scaffold and capture the students off-campus learning journey whilst on Industry Placement.

The PebblePad Learning Platform uses digital workbooks to provide a structure for students to reflect on the diverse learning experiences whilst on Industry Placement. This also helps students make sense of their workplace environment, relate theory to practice and recognise both their personal and professional development.



Mentoring is a valuable way of sharing best practice and experience with the student and is based around regular communication in the form of mentor meetings, as well as informal communication.



# Benefits of Industry Placement



## Benefits to students

- Advancing skills previously learnt
- Developing new skills
- Putting theory into practice
- Awareness of workplace culture
- Appreciation of the rapidly changing world of work
- Develop a range of personal and interactive attributes
- Enhanced employment prospects
- Developing career strategies and building up a network of contacts
- In some cases, living and working through another culture.



## Benefits to ATU

- Establish links with a wide range of employers
- Using Industry contact to ensure curriculum is up-to-date
- Opportunity for students to see their subject area in practice
- Satisfaction of seeing students developing and maturing
- Enhancement of student skills
- Employers may participate in Higher Education course development and activities.



Graduates from ATU Connemara have excellent knowledge and skills that make them a great asset to our company both in Ireland and overseas.

*MJM Group, Newry, Co. Down*



## Benefits to employers

- Giving potential recruits a trial without obligation and targeting 'highflyer' recruits
- Developing links with ATU for research and training
- Attain extra workers
- Staff development opportunities for employees who mentor students
- Setting up new projects and completion of specific tasks
- Developing a pool of potential recruits
- An injection of new ideas.

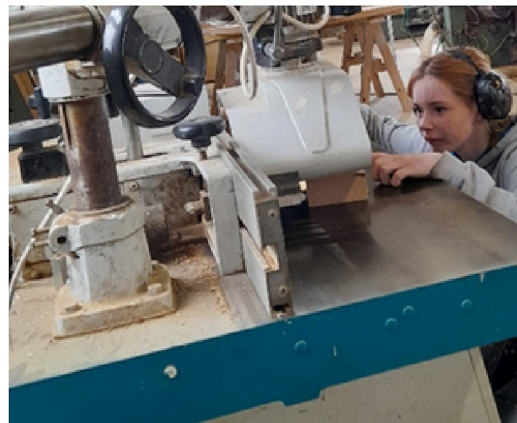
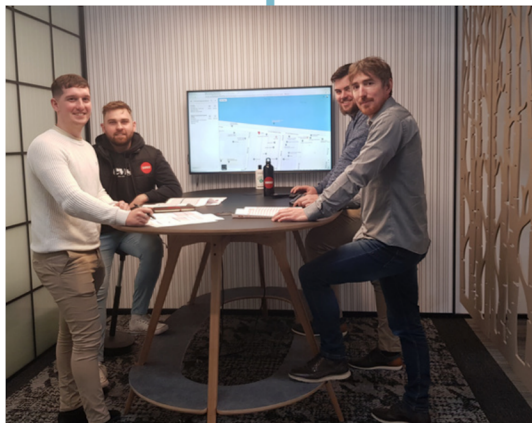
# Role of Industry Placement Parties

## Role of the student

- Act in a professional manner at all times
- Promptly communicate to the company and their supervisor any issues that may arise
- Respect work colleagues and company management
- Use equipment and machinery only in a safe manner and only when given an induction by the company
- Act as an ambassador for ATU Connemara
- Familiarise themselves with the ATU Industry Placement Handbook
- Submit academic work promptly and consistently

## Role of ATU Connemara

- Appoint an academic Supervisor to each student
- Arrange a meeting with the student and company supervisor at an early opportunity
- Agree a work plan for the student for the duration of the Industry Placement
- Act as a point of contact for the student and supervisor
- Assess the student work reflections and reports
- Liaise with the company supervisor as necessary



## Role of Host Company

### Pre-Placement

- Register your interest with ATU Connemara.
- Determine which skill needs are most appropriate for the company.
- Have clear reasons for recruiting a student and realistic expectations of a student worker.
- Consider availability of a budget to pay the student.
- Prepare a job specification and actively engage in the selection process by interviewing students.
- Develop a work plan to help meet the student's course competencies and learning outcomes.
- Identify and prepare a suitable Mentor who will support the student in the workplace.

### During Placement

- Provide induction and training, including Health and Safety, to assist the student to transition to a professional environment.
- Allow the student every opportunity to learn, develop skills and participate in real experiences.
- Provide the student with support and guidance appropriate to their role.
- Treat the student with the same duty of care as all other employees.
- Make provision for the ATU Connemara Placement Supervisor to visit the company.
- Promptly communicate any issues of concern to the ATU Placement Supervisor.

### After Placement

- Provide feedback on the students performance as part of the assessment process
- Organise a meeting with the student to review the experience
- Provide feedback and suggestions to the academic supervisor for improvements to their work placement
- Consider further engagement opportunities with ATU Connemara.

# Industry Placement Stages

## Stage 1: Induction

When the Placement Student arrives, your mentors should introduce them to the organisation, people, processes and practices. During this stage students should be given the opportunity to develop their personal competencies in Communication, Collaboration, Motivation and Work Ethic. Students will develop their Industry Placement plan in consultation with their mentor and ATU supervisor. Students will also commence their Industry Placement journals which will help them log, evidence and reflect on their learning in the workplace.



## Stage 2: Integration

Assimilate the student into existing company operations. During this stage the student should begin contributing to the company's daily operations and developing their professional furniture competencies. Mentor's should provide developmental opportunities, guidance and feedback to facilitate students to gain knowledge, experience and skills.

## Stage 3: Development

Students may begin assisting in planning and development. Mentors should identify suitable projects for the student to complete to facilitate the student to gain confidence and self-sufficiency in completion of tasks. Mentors should observe, guide and give feedback and encouragement at all times.



W2W are always impressed with the calibre of students coming to us on placement from Letterfrack. We have four staff members that are graduates from the course in various roles (Technical support, estimating and project management) which shows the adaptability and broad skillset that the graduates have

*W2W, Walls 2 workstation, Dublin.*





## Industry Placement Roles

Learners should begin their placement in a role typical of a new workshop entrant. The learners will have completed manufacturing projects during the first two years of their programme which will have given them experience in the safe set up and operation of most woodworking machinery, hand tools and power tools. For many learners, the Industry Placement module will provide a first experience of a commercial workshop and therefore, it is important that learners are given the necessary time and training to adjust to the type of products manufactured and the modern pace of production. Previous placement students have worked in roles such as:

- Production Operator
- Wood Machinist
- CNC Operator
- Cabinetmaker
- Product Assembler
- Wood Finisher
- Site Fitter
- Design Co-ordinator
- CAD Engineer
- Product Design Assistant
- Procurement Administrator
- Resource Planner

“

We have a number of graduates from ATU Connemara that we rate extremely highly, who bring significant skills and creativity to our team

Allwood Architectural Joinery

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## ATU Industry Partners



If you are interested in Industry Placement and wish to find out more; please contact the placement officer.

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