



Placement Case Studies for Key Workers

If you want to know more about our placement team
and placement opportunities then email -
placements@napier.ac.uk

Sarah Ferguson - Business
Studies, Royal Mail Placement

Euan Milne - Business Studies with
Entrepreneurship, Aldi Placement

Ella Stewart - Computing Science,
NHS NSS Placement

We all know the benefits for placements however more than ever our students are facing challenging times. Many of our students placement experience has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic however, we have students that are completing their placement due to being classified as a key worker. They have shared with us some insights into their experience of working as a key worker during the pandemic, which highlights just some of the important work that Edinburgh Napier placement students are doing during this challenging time.

As part of her Business Studies degree, Sarah is currently completing a 12-month placement with Royal Mail.

“I am very lucky my placement and coursework hasn’t been affected by the pandemic. I applied for the placement with Royal Mail as it was a manager position and I would gain managerial experience for my future. My role entails running the retail



Royal Mail



‘I am proud to be involved in keeping the country running during these uncertain times.’

dispatch operation and managing a team of 5 individuals and ensuring quality of service targets are met. The main changes for me since the pandemic involves ensuring that we meet the social distancing requirements within the workplace. Re-arranging the dispatch stations so that a 2 meter distance is maintained between operators and ensuring there is sufficient levels of PPE. I have felt anxious working throughout the pandemic but also felt it highly rewarding. The main thing I can take from this experience is the ability to remain calm in a difficult situation and environment. This is something that will be easily transferable for my future professional career.”

As part of his Business Studies degree, Euan is currently completing a 12-month placement with Aldi.

"I have been extremely fortunate to be deemed a key worker during COVID-19 as it allowed me to continue with my industrial placement at Aldi. The placement is set up with 6 months in-store and then 6 months at head office at Bathgate. When working in my second store I was appointed assistant store manager and took over the store when my manager went on holiday in my final week, taking a greater deal of responsibility on compared to my first store. Taking full responsibility for allocating all products across Scotland which customers are panic buying during COVID-19. This ensures that all stores have equal availability, allowing all customers across the



"The ability to continue as an employee of the business has allowed my life to remain relatively normal."



country to have access to our products throughout the lockdown period. Working within a customer service environment there are a number of factors and situations that arise and have to be dealt with immediately. Having to adapt quickly throughout the day was vital due to the fast-paced, high-pressure working environment. I am fortunate for the ability to continue earning, gaining invaluable work experience and to continue demonstrating my passion and commitment to the company. This pandemic has enforced major changes on everyone's lives, therefore I feel very grateful to be able to continue working throughout COVID-19. "

As part of her Computing Science degree, Ella is currently completing a 12-month placement with NHS NSS.

"I chose to apply for the role with NHS NSS because it seemed like I would gain a lot of experience in different aspects of Business Intelligence. I have participated in a project that required the use of ETL (extract, transform and load) work to allow us to access and use the data within the National Primary Care Clinician database. My day has changed slightly as I am now working from home full time. My department has been classed as a key service due to the importance of data and the analysis of the new data sets during this pandemic. Working from home is a big difference to working in an office surrounded by your colleagues. I have found that I have become much less reliant on help from others and any problems that I encounter I am attempting to solve myself, before turning to others



"Although I am not directly helping those affected by Covid-19 I feel privileged to be able to carry on with my work and help out in a different way."



for help. Working under pressure during this time is a skill that I will take forward professionally, knowing I can complete pieces of work in a short amount of time and complete them to a high degree of accuracy. Although I am not directly helping those affected by Covid-19 I feel privileged to be able to carry on with my work and help out in a different way."