



Applied degrees at Aston University

Dr Chloe Harrison

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Aston University

Birmingham

Studying English at Aston

- SH/JH English Language BSc; JH English Literature BSc
- An *applied* English degree
- Combinations with English Language/ Literature, French, German, International Relations, Politics, Sociology, Public Policy & Management, Business, TESOL, History.
- Opportunities for specialisation: teaching English; business English; forensic linguistics; literary linguistics; sociolinguistics
- Offers a 'sandwich' placement year at home or abroad (10% of degree)

Placement Year Options

- Study abroad
- Work abroad – teaching assistantships:
 - Brussels, Cyprus, Japan
- Work in the UK – some examples
 - Charitable societies
 - Media / publishing companies
 - Customer relations / marketing

Placement Year Assessment

- Critical reflection (6 questions; 2,000 words): 60%
- Placement Year Project (2,000 words): 40%

Can choose 3 from remaining questions on: **collaborative working; resilience (challenging situations/overcoming adversity); communication; broadening horizons; ethics/social responsibility; leadership**

Reflective questions

1. Prior study:

How have your studies within your discipline enabled you to perform effectively in your work or study placement?

2. Self-awareness & development:

Describe a time when you changed your behaviour based on feedback you had been given. Evaluate how effective the change was.

3. Future Career/Employment:

How will you apply what you have learnt on your placement to the rest of your University studies and future career?

Graduate profiles

GRACE MARR



BSC English Language

Grace's year abroad took her to Do Nang in Vietnam, where she worked as an IELTS Instructor at the VNUK Institute. She said the experience taught her about herself and built her confidence.

'The opportunity to live in an incredible place was amazing, and being able to immerse myself in a new culture made the experience even more challenging and exciting. I now feel far braver when facing new challenges that I would have previously found scary and maybe not have taken because of this'.

Graduate profiles



Marianne Cowie
French and English Language

I did a study placement at the Université Paul-Valéry in **Montpellier, France**. Studying at a French university was very demanding and I learned to deal with all sorts of challenging and new situations completely independently. Placement year was a great year for building my confidence, determination and self-belief. It made me throw myself into everything I do and give everything my all! I really enjoyed travelling around the south of France during placement. It was great to visit such a variety of interesting places including Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, Cassis, Nimes. Placement year was great because I learned so much and came back to university with a greater focus and sense of purpose than ever before. This set me up for final year (and

beyond), where I feel that I truly embraced my studies.



Jessica Metcalfe
International Relations and English Language

I spent my placement year in **Paris**, where I worked as a General Manager and Language Assistant at HSBC for part of the year and a Digital Marketer at Digimind for the rest of my time. The highlight of my placement experience was being able to improve and really get a hold on the French language which at the start was not easy! I also enjoyed having the flexibility to travel around Europe and beyond to see friends and of course finding all the hidden treasures in Paris. First things first, it gave me the international experience both working abroad, but also working for markets outside the UK. It also built my confidence so I was able to throw myself into a new experience living and working abroad, whilst also improving my second language

skills - you can't ask for much more!

Graduate profiles



Hollie Abbott
English Language

I worked as a PR and Publicity Assistant at Bosch Power Tools in **Uxbridge** during my placement year. The placement taught me how to be responsible and independent in the real working world. I was lucky enough to experience working for a global brand and learnt some great transferable skills. As a marketing assistant at Bosch I interacted with many different types of people from other departments to customers of the brands. This gave me the confidence needed for future interviews and now I feel like I can interact with anyone and make an impression.



Hayley Prichard-Jones
English Language

My placement was a Teaching Assistant role at King's Group in **Madrid**. The highlight of my placement year was getting to experience amazing Spanish culture. Although completely out of my comfort zone, I pushed through the challenges and had the best year of my life. I feel that my placement prepared me for my future career because I experienced an entire year within a school environment. By being a Teaching Assistant I saw every side to teaching: from playing football with the pupils in the playground, teaching them all about British values, and learning lots of Spanish from them! I gained the skills I needed to secure a place with Teach First.

Graduate profiles

- Internship at Summersdale Publishers
- Online Activism Volunteer at Friends of the Earth
- Administration Assistant at The Children's Society
- English Language Assistant at Toyo Gakuen University, Japan
- Teaching Assistant at the British International School of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Teaching Assistant positions in primary and secondary schools in the UK
- British Council Language Assistant in Spain
- Volunteering in Thailand organised by VESL

Employment Prospects - Examples

publishing

**linguistic
computing**

**teaching
at home or
abroad**

**information
technology**

journalism

**the Civil
Service**

the media:

- **advertising**
- **marketing**
- **public relations**

library work

politics

Recent graduate jobs

Recent Organisations

- BBC
- Virgin Active
- IBM
- The Institute of Engineering and Technology (The IET)
- Ketchum
- CapGemini
- Interserve
- Wilkinson Dynamic Balancing
- Financial Services