



**University of
Nottingham**
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The University of Nottingham's postgraduate placement programme has helped more than 200 research students to gain valuable career and professional development experience.

Based largely in small and medium-sized enterprises, students were tasked with undertaking projects that brought bottom-line improvements to local businesses. Placements allowed students to apply their analytical and creative thinking skills and use their research expertise in a non-research environment to benefit industry. Placements could be undertaken on a part-time basis, enabling students to integrate industry experience with their studies.

Customer profiling, new product research and development, consultancy and marketing were some of the projects undertaken with more than 100 local employers - demonstrating that researchers are highly skilled professionals who can be competitive in job markets beyond academia.

A survey of 20 businesses that hosted postgraduates on placements shows that research students' work resulted in an added £205,000 in value to their companies. About eight out of 10 students who participated said placements had significantly improved their ability to acquire, evaluate and interpret information. A similar number said it had increased their self-esteem.

Our judges said Nottingham's programme was "innovative in its flexibility and focus on local SMEs" and provided "real value to doctoral researchers across all disciplines and to businesses".