

Transcript

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Ask Me Anything: Professional Placements Swinburne University of Technology

BREYANNA: My name's Breyanna and I did a professional placement at Austin Health and my degree was health science.

ANA: My name is Ana. I am doing a placement in Yarra Ranges Council in HR, and I'm studying psychology.

NOAH: My name's Noah. I'm a third year business student, and I'm doing my placement at Swinburne.

BREYANNA: All right, question one. If your placement experience had a theme song, what would it be and why?

ANA: So my theme song is Find My Way by Gabe Dixon. A lot of people don't actually know this song but it talks about a guy that is very lost and he's doing little things here and little things there and then he eventually realizes that he's always been home. And so I think that was my placement experience for me because we rotate around a lot of portfolios and you're like, "I don't know what I'm doing here, I don't know what I'm doing here," and then it all just comes into place and you feel like you're home.

NOAH: Mine would probably Take It Easy by The Eagles. I think being across different projects, different portfolios, it's easy to lose that work-life balance. I think having that mindset going into things has been really important.

BREYANNA: Mine would probably be something like Bohemian Rhapsody. My placement was split into four, three months rotation, so I was here, there and everywhere learning a new thing every other week, and then at the end it just came together all so nicely, a bit like the song.

ANA: What professional skills has your industry experience given you?

NOAH: I think confidence building but also I think communication and maintaining professional relationships. I think you work with a lot of different people, a lot of different ideas come to light, so being able to develop and maintain those has been a huge skill that I've learned.

BREYANNA: I guess being able to adjust your communication level for who you're talking to so that it's appropriate for your audience was really important. I was rotating around lots of different areas as well so I had to be really flexible and ready to adapt to whatever new situation was coming my way. So yeah, that was a good skill.

ANA: I would say verbal and written communication, just because I work in HR and you deal with a lot of clients, so our council actually has 900 employees, and so you're dealing with all of them all the time. So those are the two main ones I've learned.

NOAH: Breyanna, how did you find the transition from studying to full-time work?

BREYANNA: It was pretty intense. Working full-time is pretty exhausting, to be fair. When you go from uni and you're only in a couple of days a week to being in the office every single day is pretty full on. But I found it really helpful. There was a lot of people at my work who had actually done the Swinburne placement themselves. It was probably over 50% of the people at my workplace that actually been hired from the same program. Ana, do you have any tips to ace the recruitment process?

ANA: I do. So from what I've noticed, because in my placement, so the way that it works is that we then recruit the next placement student, so we're the one that does the whole process. And in all honesty, what we look for is just passion more than anything. I know that as students when we come out of uni, we don't really have a diverse amount of work that we can offer or reference to and get transferable skills. But if you show passion, if you show why you actually want to do it, what do you want to get out of it, that really tells the hiring manager, "All right, this person's going to be good at their job, they're into it," and yeah, there's something like it, I guess.

NOAH: All right. Breyanna, what was the most rewarding part of your placement and why?

BREYANNA: I worked in a hospital, so with patients, and one thing about patients is that they're very honest and they will tell you exactly what they think. So it was really rewarding to get feedback from them. But I think also just personally noticing when I began feeling more, I guess comfortable and competent in a skill or a role that was really fulfilling and to feel like I could start to become independent in something that was really cool.

ANA: What is your number one piece of advice for students starting a placement?

NOAH: Oh, great question. I think, step back, take a deep breath, focus more on what you're going to get out of it and the passion you can bring to it more than anything. Because a lot's going to happen, it's going to be really exciting and you're going to walk away with a lot of value.

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