



DePuy Ireland

Engineering student placements.

DePuy Ireland established a state of the art manufacturing facility in Ringaskiddy in 1997. The site predominately manufactures orthopaedic knee and hip replacement joints.



“DePuy are used to having students and have an outstanding system in place for managing everyone individually and as a group.”

Ruairi Cullinane,
Operations Development coordinator

The Need

Work placement helps to reenergise students and to improve their focus as they prepare to commence the final year of their degree programme. Keith Roche, a former CIT biomedical engineering student recalls that before his work placement he was unsure how the knowledge he gained in the classroom would translate to the working environment.

The Solution

Keith secured his work placement with DuPuy Ireland. “DePuy allows a new starter to leverage off other students’ experience in getting set up.” Ruairi Cullinane, Operations Development Coordinator explains that DePuy offers student placement as it sees the programme as an integral part of its talent management. “We can identify candidates at an early stage that have high potential for future placements.”

Challenges

The process of work experience and placement is complex, involving interactions between the student, third-level institution and employer on a variety of levels. It requires a considerable input of resources to run a placement scheme properly.

Critical Success Factors

The 6 months Keith spent on placement gave him valuable insights into the links between his college course and the actual working world. “There were numerous times I thought to myself ‘I heard that in college’.” According to Dr Hugh O’Donnell of CIT, the Biomedical Engineering work placement programme in 2012 has been highly successful. All twenty three third-year students have been placed in either industrial, clinical or research settings. “Feedback from the employers has been uniformly positive and, in many cases, outstandingly so.”

Benefits of the Engagement

The principal benefits of the programme to the student are the practical skills that they develop: learning to work as part of multidisciplinary teams; learning to communicate effectively in the workplace and improving time-management skills. In addition, students frequently return to CIT with proposals for final year projects related to the work they have undertaken during their placement. In many instances where students have secured a placement for the minimum ten-week period outlined in the work placement module, they have performed so well that employers have extended the placement until the students have to return to college.

“The reputation of CIT as home to one of the preeminent engineering Faculties in the country is further reinforced by the employers’ experience of the employers of our work placement students.”

Dr Hugh O’Donnell, Lecturer,
Manufacturing Biomedical Facilities

