

Autodesk Digital Catalyst Program

Student FAQ

Do I get paid for my placement?

Whilst we cannot insist that you get paid for the short placement, we strongly encourage the SME to make some type of contribution to you. At the very least we'd expect any reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by you to be covered by the company.

Do I get ECTS credits for this placement?

Unfortunately, neither Autodesk or the SME can provide any ECTS credits for this short placement.

How does this differ from traditional University placements?

Autodesk will be connecting you directly to customers who have identified a need to "digitize" their design and manufacturing processes, so these will not be run of the mill or traditional placements that focus on day to day or traditional tasks. Over a period of 80 hours, you will be helping them overcome their challenge by applying some out of the box thinking and knowledge of digital design and manufacturing technologies. If you are a good fit for each other. It's also a great way to try out the culture and fit of the company and see if you are a good fit for each other. After that, you can decide if you want to continue and formalize a placement.

How does the Digital Catalyst program actually work?

Once you register as a Digital Catalyst, Autodesk will use the information you provide to match you with potential companies with projects that match your interests. We'll then make direct introductions via email, between potential Small Medium Enterprises (SME) with potential Digital Catalysts (you), who are then free to connect and discuss the project or opportunity and decide if there is a good fit on both sides.

When can I expect an answer, after I submit my details?

Whilst we cannot guarantee a placement, we will start matching your interests with potential companies already registered with us. Once any matches have been identified, Autodesk will introduce you directly to the SME(s). This process can take several days or as much as several weeks, depending on the nature of your request and the demand from SMEs so please bear with us. Autodesk will not use the information provided for any other purpose other than to match you with a suitable company.

What if I don't hear from you?

If you haven't heard from us in 90 Days from the date of your registration it is probably because we haven't found a suitable company to introduce you to, but don't be put off! We'd still encourage you to take some of the online courses on [Autodesk Design Academy](#), and improve your knowledge and skills.

Can I choose the company I might be offered a placement in?

We cannot unfortunately offer you this choice, but we will strive to find a match that is near your current home, if that's important to you and your studies.

Is the placement all about using your software?

To qualify for being a Digital Catalyst and being entered into our matching database, you need to be a good to proficient user of our latest generation tools and workflows, especially cloud-based and digital fabrication tools like Autodesk Fusion 360, Netfabb. Generative Design is a definite plus.

How can I increase the chances of my application being accepted?

Tell us about any student organization you've been part of, student project teams, student competitions, or any previous internship experience you've had. Also, consider linking to your individual projects and portfolio. Offer as much information about yourself, your interests, your strengths, what you are looking for, in the request form.

How long does the placement last?

We recommend a maximum period of 80 hours, or approximately 2 weeks. After that time is up, you are free to agree an extension of the project or thesis opportunity directly with the SME, for as long as you both feel is appropriate and reasonable.

What if I don't like my placement?

We strive to identify and match you with companies who have exciting digital challenges that need your help in solving. However, if you are not happy with your current placement please reach out to us at digital.catalyst.uki@autodesk.com and we will shortly be in touch.

Other questions?

Email us at digital.catalyst.uki@autodesk.com