



Placements with top tech company gets students industry ready

Students from Staffordshire University are undertaking work placements with one of the biggest technology companies in the world in a bid to help fill the skills gap in the computer networking industry.

[BSc \(Hons\) Computer Networks and Security](#) students Jagdish Tank and Florian Jouan are currently on an industrial placement with Cisco Brussels – one of industry leader Cisco's top technical sites – and lecturers Dr Justin Champion and Dr Carolin Bauer visited the pair at the exclusive location to see how they are getting on.

Carolin said: "Computer networking is everywhere – when you use your phone, your computer or your television – and the industry is growing rapidly."

"There is an extremely high demand for skilled graduates with the right knowledge and experience and so to ensure industry relevance our networking awards have been designed based on feedback from industry leaders."

Through the University's industry links, students have the opportunity to gain practical experience by doing a 12 month placement to enhance their skills and Jagdish and Florian are working for the Cisco Advanced Lab Operations (CALO) team which is responsible for building, testing and troubleshooting the largest networks on the planet.

The students are liaising with big name clients and are using equipment worth thousands of pounds on a daily basis.

"For the past three years we have placed a number of placement students at Cisco Brussels and they have always done very well, quickly becoming an asset to the company and the team they work in." explained Carolin.

Some of the students have gone on to get full time positions at the company after graduating and others have used their experience and knowledge to gain good positions at other companies including Meraki.

Carolin added: "Jagdish and Florian are getting on really well at Cisco. As the Computer Networking industry grows, this kind of experience is invaluable and we are committed to offering a range of opportunities like this for our students."

Amy Platts

Multimedia Press Officer

t:01782 292702

m:07799 341911

e:amy.platts@staffs.ac.uk

Staffordshire University is developing to meet the needs of modern day learners and current and emerging industries. Vocationally inspired, the University offers courses across a wide range of subject areas. The Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 determined that 78 per cent of the University's research is world leading or of international importance.