Web Application for Matching Students and Placements

BCS Manchester

Manchester branch was one of the first branches established when the British Computer Society was created in the late 1950s. We provide opportunities for members to network with each other and run events for professional development. We work with practitioners, technology enterprises, universities and voluntary bodies to support an agenda of “technology for good.”

Business Context

- Commissioned by UK Government - National Centre for Universities and Business (NCUB) study January 2015: Growing Experience, A Review of Undergraduate Placements in Computer Science for the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills. We see *increases in UK technology sector business UK technology firms planning to hire more staff. Despite this, the computer science graduates who are fundamental to this growth show the highest level of unemployment of all students six months after leaving university*”. “*…time and again research and employers point to undergraduate work placements as an effective method for improving employment outcomes in computing.”.*
- Anecdotal: university lecturers have observed that students who have taken up an industrial placement fare better in their final year academic studies, and more students find employment, when compared with peers who don’t take up an industrial placement.

Problem

BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, Manchester Branch wants to encourage more students to undertake placements in industry. We feel an easy to use web site, with information about the benefits of placements, could help remove barriers and match students and placement employers.

Solution

This project will implement a web application that matches students with employers offering year-long placements.

Information should be provided in the application about the benefits of placements to both students and employers. The application might be used by staff in university careers offices, employer talent management departments and accessed in university libraries.

Students can provide contact details (name, email, phone number, and postal address) and store a CV (in .PDF file format). Use categories, skills and levels terminology from Skills for the Information Age (SFIA) Version 8 to do the matching.

Employers can provide contact details (contact name, email, phone number, and postal address). In addition employers should provide details of each placement opportunity:

- Placement description,
- Skills required,
- Salary offered,
- Location, and
- Preferred start and end date.

Using an online dating agency analogy, the site should match placements with students. Employers and students should be contacted (by email?) when a potential match occurs.

Technology Stack

You can build the solution as an installable application, or (better) as a responsive web app. Use what ever technologies you feel are appropriate.

Delivery

Start with a simple working minimum viable product, accompanied with some design ideas for user experience. Then think about how you can involve everyone in the team in adding features and content.

Useful Resources

BCS Manchester	http://www.bcs.org/category/18153
SFIA V8.0	https://www.sfia-online.org/en
GMCA Digital City Region	https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/digital/