**Exploring the Work Placement Experience among the Undergraduate students at the University of Technology, Mauritius**

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**Abstract**

*More recently, the integration of work experience and learning not only is seen as a crucial component of institutional agenda to enhance graduates’ work readiness but also becomes an institutional strategy to project themselves in the competitive international education market (Tran & Soejatminah, 2016).* *Despite numerous job openings, graduate employment and their work-readiness remains a burning issue as Mauritian industries deplore the lack of soft skills and real-life experiences termed essential for recruitment. The University of Technology, Mauritius (UTM) has fully embraced the Work Placement philosophy since 2014 to offer multiple opportunities to its students. One such endeavour is the Work Placement Module, which aims at improving the employability of the graduates by providing practical experiences directly related to university courses, as well as facilitating the transition from university to work to improve productivity outcomes for employers and the economy. The present study is aimed at exploring the role of the Work Placement experience among the students studying at the UTM. A survey was conducted using an online questionnaire among 230 participants. To measure the soft-skill development on the students’ surveys, data were analysed using SPSS. Descriptive statistics including means, standard deviations, and ranges of scores were examined prior and after the internship. The results reveal that students had a positive attitude toward the acquired skills and abilities through Work Placement. The majority of the students asserted that through their Work Placement experiences, they have acquired important soft skills and have become excellent team players and good communicators. To assess the effectiveness of Work Placement, students who have completed their internship can be part of future research studies.*

**Keywords:** *Work Placement Experience, Undergraduate students, UTM, Mauritius*