



WPI

London Project Centre Student Placements

Information for interested project hosts

WPI's London Project Centre



- London is one of 50+ WPI 'project centres' around the world.
- As part of their degree, all WPI undergraduates complete an interdisciplinary research project seeking solutions to important, socially-relevant problems.
- WPI has conducted more than 450 student research projects through its London Project Center since 1987.
- Project hosts have included many London Boroughs, museums, community groups, charities and other NGOs.

- 3 rounds of placements per year (Jan–June), with 2 academic advisors and c. 24 students in London for each.
- Project teams of 4 students spend 7 weeks full-time in their host organisation, preceded by 7 weeks intensive preparation in the US.
- Unlike other study/work abroad programmes or internships, where the onus is on the host organisation to fully support the team, WPI provides a very high degree of preparation and support for the students.

The benefits to your organisation of hosting a WPI student project team

- Over 1,600 hours of effort from an enthusiastic, well-prepared research team with technical expertise.
- Teams usually require less than 4 hours of staff input per week.
- An opportunity for your organisation to complete an important project that you may not have the capacity to otherwise undertake.
- Cost-effective, innovative solutions to a particular issue.
- An outside perspective that can bring 'fresh eyes' to an ongoing issue.
- Development opportunity for staff to manage a small team during the project.
- Professional documentation and presentation of the project results and recommendations and the option of additional deliverables.
- Supervision by WPI academic advisors at every stage of the project process.
- No direct financial costs for host organisations.



How the student placements work

- Projects are developed by host organisations in collaboration with WPI.
- Project teams composed of competitively selected students of science, engineering, management and humanities work to solve a key problem for an organisation.
- Prior to arrival, teams undertake 7 weeks of preparation for their project with close supervision from academic advisors and in liaison with the host organisation.
- Teams of 4 students spend 7 weeks based at the host organisation. Students bring their own laptops, and can be flexibly accommodated through hotdesking or occasionally working off-site.
- Teams produce a professional report of complete results and recommendations as well as a high-quality public presentation of their findings.
- Additional deliverables such as as draft web content, databases and multimedia outputs can also be requested.
- WPI advisors meet weekly with host organisations to ensure projects are completed to the highest standards and meets all the pre-agreed objectives.
- Advisors work closely with the students throughout the placement, and take care of all pastoral needs.



What kinds of projects could a WPI team undertake for your organisation?

Wide range of activities such as:

- Evaluate and develop services, programmes and exhibits
- Conduct stakeholder/audience/client research
- Produce educational and promotional materials

Students skilled in:

- Web & digital content development
- Design and implementation of databases
- Digital evaluation tools
- Social media
- STEM

Open to all project suggestions that enable students to fulfil the academic criteria of the course.

Please find the full details of past projects [here](#) and a range of project case studies below.

Who does WPI already work with in London?



- Our current and recent project hosts include:
- Commonsense Community Development Trust, The Winch, Wimbledon Community Association, Sutton Community Farm and Art Alive in Churches
- The London Boroughs of Brent, Camden, Croydon, Hounslow, Lambeth, Lewisham and Sutton.
- London Underground, Crossrail and Tower Bridge
- Museum of Homelessness, Museum of London, British Museum, Imperial War Museum, London Transport Museum, Design Museum and Postal Museum
- Historic Royal Palaces (Hampton Court, Tower of London and Kensington Palace)
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors & the Institution of Structural Engineers

What do existing hosts say about working with WPI's London Project Centre?



"We have been a happy host to WPI undergraduate teams every year since 2006!

Together, we have tackled a number of local issues, and strengthened our own organisation in the process. These include: a redesign for the Croydon, Sutton and Merton Credit Union, a new website, an assessment of local vocational education, the creation of a science camp based on local heritage themes, boosting rental income and making better use of social media.

With good planning, we have always been happy with our experience of WPI students, and they have helped us to run a thriving local community enterprise and charity. We are not a large organisations so their high quality input and perspective has been extremely useful.

I cannot recommend this experience highly enough and am happy to provide more information as needed."

Naomi Martin

Director

Commonside Community
Development Trust

What do existing hosts say about working with WPI's London Project Centre?

"The team worked on improving parking options using the existing infrastructure in such a way that we can efficiently future proof our service without having to spend a lot of money. Their recommendations have been taken up as part of our parking strategy for the next few years as they've evidenced clear benefits and highly cost effective ways of delivering a future proofed service based on systems we currently use that fits in with our responsibilities as a local authority to comply with the overall green agenda for London.

Overall, the team provided some incredible work, and they were such a friendly and enthusiastic group of people. We really enjoy working with the students as they always have a fresh and objective approach to problems that we sometimes miss because we work day-after-day in the same areas and often too close to the issues to think outside the box!"



Ashley Brandon

Environment Enforcement and
Investigations Manager

London Borough of Lambeth

What do existing hosts say about working with WPI's London Project Centre?

"I have been working with the WPI London Project Centre for the last ten years. WPI students had worked on several research projects with me at Brent Council. Because I was very impressed by the high quality of outcomes, the high standard of supervision and support from teaching staff and the enthusiastic approach taken by students, I have continued to be a WPI project host after I joined Hounslow Council.

The students consistently produce outstanding research projects, and it is always helpful to have a team from outside the organisation approach a topic from different perspective. The WPI London Project Centre has my highest endorsement and I encourage you to become a project host."



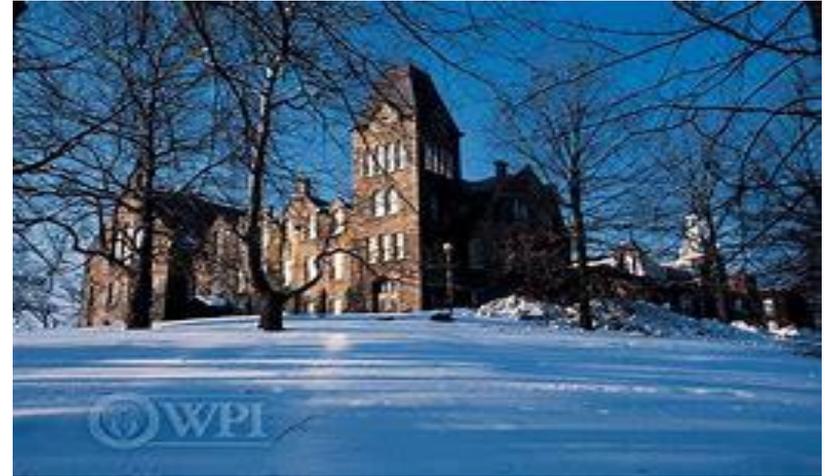
Joyce Ip

Senior Regeneration
Officer

London Borough of
Hounslow

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

- A STEM-focused university, with 4,500 undergrad & 2,000 postgrad students located in Massachusetts.
- Founded in 1865 to create and convey the latest science and engineering knowledge in ways that are most beneficial to society.



- WPI holds firm to its founding mission to provide an education that balances theory with practice.
- Today's curriculum is project-based and globally engaged.
- Students work on interdisciplinary research seeking solutions to important, socially-relevant problems, both on campus and at more than 50 project centres throughout the world.

WPI's Global Projects Program

- At WPI, we know that the best way for students to understand and appreciate societal issues is to experience them first-hand.
- All undergraduates must complete an interdisciplinary research project as part of their degree.
- By working in multidisciplinary teams to address problems related to technology, society, and human needs, students come to understand how their careers will affect and be affected by, societal structures and cultural values.



- More than 80% of students currently conduct their projects off campus at one of WPI's 50+ project centres in Europe, Central and North America, Africa, and the Asia-Pacific region.
- We want every student to be part of a global project experience, so from 2022, all students will receive a \$5,000 Global Scholarship to complete a project at one of WPI's project centres.
- [More information about the Global Projects Program can be found here](#)

WPI: an outstanding university

Top 10

Most popular US study abroad programs

Princeton Review 2018

#1

In the US for integrated undergrad teaching & research

Wall Street Journal 2018

Top 10

US universities for career prospects

Princeton Review 2019

Top 20

STEM-focused US universities

Forbes 2018

How to find out more about working with us

- Further details can be found at the WPI London Project Centre [website](#).
- Please do get in touch for more information or an informal conversation about working with the WPI London Project Centre.

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