

flyingstart



Name:	Oliver Sidwell
Age:	24 years
Business / Website:	www.ratemyplacement.co.uk
Service:	Web recruitment agency for undergraduates
University:	Loughborough
Degree:	BSc Geography & Business Management

Background:

Ratemyplacement.co.uk is an undergraduate recruitment website specialising in student work placement and internships in the UK. It aims to provide students with unrivalled information on work placement and internship opportunities in the UK as well as allowing employers to reach the best career minded students earlier than has traditionally been possible.

Aim of business: To be the premier resource for student, universities and employers involved in work placements and internships in the UK.

Business growth: Launched website in October 2007, went full time in April 2008. Since then the website has gone from £14k turnover to over £200k turnover in 18 months .

At a glance....

Started Trading: August 2007
Turnover: £200,000
Investment: £2,000
Number of employees: 5

Business achievements: 2007 - Loughborough University Business Plan Competition Winners, 2008 - HSBC Unipreneur Finalists, 2008 - HSBC Start-Up Stars Southern Finalists, 2009 - Home Business BlackBerry Advert, 2009 - Launched their own first nationally recognised Awards in association with Oxford Brookes University.

Ratemyplacement.co.uk on how Flying Start has helped:

'Flying Start gave us the impetus we needed at a vital stage of our development as we attended a Flying Start Rally when we first launched. We spoke to many other like minded people, heard some inspirational speakers and the rest is history!'

About the FlyingStart Programme

This 12-month business start-up programme for new entrepreneurs is delivered by the NCGE and supported by the UK Government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). An intensive three-day residential training course is followed by 12 months' specialist mentoring and support. The aim is to have 60% of all graduates trading within one year. FlyingStart ensures all new graduate businesses have a ready-made national and regional network, a dedicated mentor, appreciate the 'know-hows and know-whos' of practical business, and understand how to make money.