



TWINNING

SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN UNIVERSITIES



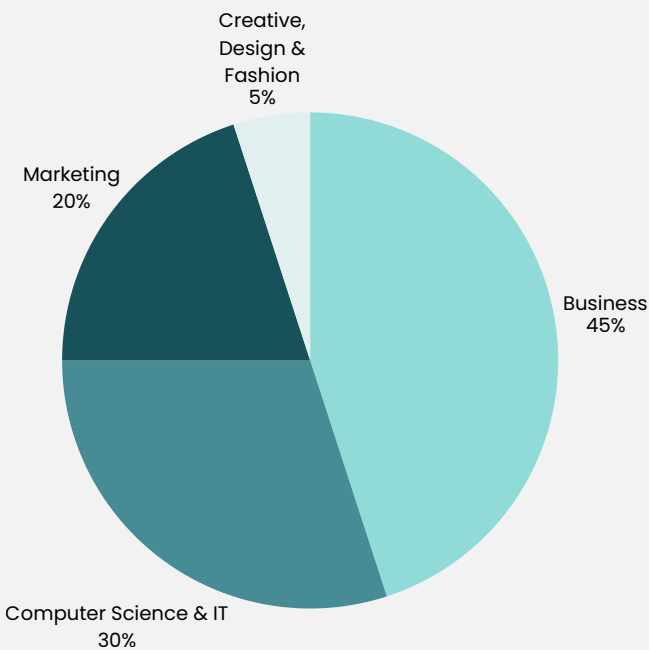
VIRTUAL
INTERNSHIPS

UK-Ukraine Twinning Internships Program Outcomes

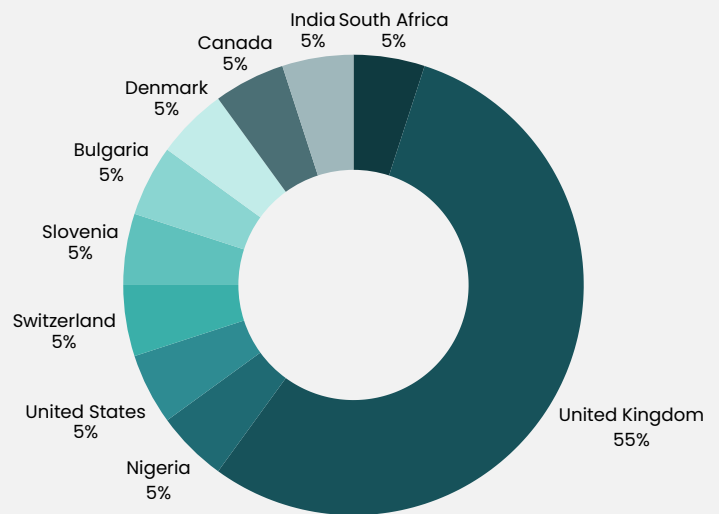
UK-Ukraine Twinning Internships

In 2025, as part of the UK-Ukraine Twinning Initiative, VI sponsored 20 Ukrainian students to complete remote internships. The program was designed to support Ukrainian youth in becoming globally employable, equipping them with additional skills and meaningful international experience, and opening pathways to employment opportunities beyond Ukraine, helping strengthen their long-term career prospects during and beyond the crisis.

Internship Career Fields



Host Company Location



Internship Outcomes

93%

Of participants agreed that they were satisfied with their internship at their host company.

93%

Of participants agreed that they have developed their skills.

100%

Of host company supervisors agreed they would provide a positive employment reference.

1 in 4

Participants reported that they were offered to extend their position at their host company.

“Virtual Internships provided me with a wealth of resources to further my career. This includes not only hard and soft skills, but also confidence and the feeling that I will achieve my goals. Now I can be competitive in both national and international markets.”

Yuliia Smykovska

**National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
Business Intern**

Interning with M4trix Dev Limited, United Kingdom



From Creative Intern to Confident Digital Marketer:

Turning Ideas into Impact



Olena Matiukh

National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"

Career Field: Marketing

Host Company: Jobago.ai, United Kingdom

Internship: Marketing Associate

Current Position:

Social Media Marketing Specialist (Self-Employed)

Olena completed her 12-week Virtual Internship, contributing to the company's growing digital presence across multiple platforms. During her internship, Olena worked across six social media platforms, developing content strategies, launching campaigns, and optimizing engagement. What began as content creation quickly evolved into a deeper involvement in performance analytics, campaign optimization, and cross-functional collaboration.

Her internship projects included:

- Developing and launching multi-platform social media campaigns
- Creating SEO-optimized Pinterest strategies to drive website traffic
- Tracking analytics and presenting weekly performance insights
- Supporting brand growth across TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Pinterest

Biggest Skills and Knowledge Gains:

Adaptability & Growth Mindset

Multi-Platform Digital Strategy

Creative Problem-Solving & Initiative

“Virtual Internships helped me explore the field of digital and creative marketing through real projects. I improved my confidence, adaptability, and creative thinking while working with new tools and platforms. After completing the program, I feel more prepared to take on professional challenges and grow in my career. I'm truly thankful for this opportunity and the support I received along the way.”

Outcome:

- ✓ Was offered an extension and continued developing her expertise
- ✓ Now works as a Social Media Marketing Specialist (Self-Employed)

Building Systems That Scale: From Intern to Operational Thinker



Daniil Pitta

National Technical University
"Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute"

Career Field: Business

Host Company: The Intellectual Plug, Nigeria

Internship: Online Business Manager Intern

From the beginning, Daniil demonstrated strong systems thinking and operational awareness, contributing far beyond typical intern expectations. Rather than simply executing tasks, Daniil focused on improving internal workflows and optimizing business systems. He worked extensively with tools such as Notion, ClickUp, and CRM platforms to refine documentation, streamline operations, and increase efficiency across teams.

Key contributions included:

- Improving internal workflow systems and documentation processes
- Proposing system-level improvements that reduced operational friction
- Supporting the backend development of the company's first digital product
- Contributing to scalable structures for future product launches
- Elevating strategic thinking within internal operations

Biggest Skills and Knowledge Gains:

Systems Thinking & Process Optimization

Operational Leadership

Strategic Communication

Supervisor Feedback

“ Daniil demonstrated strong systems thinking and consistently improved internal workflows using tools like Notion, ClickUp, and CRM systems. He played a key role in building the operational foundation for a scalable digital product. His initiative and clarity went beyond typical intern expectations, and he has strong potential for continued growth. ”

Outcome:

- ✓ Left the internship having built foundational experience in digital operations and scalable business systems — skills that position him strongly for high-impact operational and strategic roles.

From Communication to Leadership: Driving Business Development with Initiative



Danyil Kysilenko

National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy"

Career Field: Business

Host Company: Lifya, United Kingdom

Internship: Business Development and Marketing Intern

Danyil completed his 12-week internship with Lifya, where he contributed to business development and brand partnership initiatives. Throughout the internship, he demonstrated initiative, ownership, and creative thinking in identifying growth opportunities. One of his standout achievements was independently identifying high-potential sustainable brands, conducting positioning research, and crafting tailored outreach strategies that resulted in new sign-ons and partnership conversations.

Key contributions included:

- Conducting strategic outreach to sustainable brands
- Developing tailored partnership proposals
- Contributing creative campaign ideas blending storytelling with sustainability metrics
- Managing stakeholder communication during onboarding delays
- Coordinating cross-department communication to resolve operational bottlenecks

Biggest Skills and Knowledge Gains:

Business Communication & Client Interaction

Initiative & Ownership

Strategic Outreach & Brand Alignment

“After completing the VI program, I became deeply interested in how to communicate clearly and professionally. The experience strengthened my confidence and showed me how meaningful communication can directly impact business success.”

Outcome:

- ✓ Completed the internship with strengthened leadership presence and business development capabilities, positioning him for future growth in strategy, partnerships, or entrepreneurial roles.

From Front-End to Full-Stack: Discovering the Architecture of Modern Web Development



Dmytro Buialo

National Technical University
of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv
Polytechnic Institute"

Career Field: Computer Science & IT

Host Company: Wakestart, United Kingdom

Internship: Web Developer &
Mobile App Developer Intern

Dmytro completed his 12-week internship, working in web and mobile development. His experience marked a turning point in how he understood modern application architecture. Initially focusing separately on Webflow (front-end) and PHP (back-end), Dmytro experienced a breakthrough moment when he fully understood how user interface design connects with server-side logic – transforming his perspective into full-stack development thinking.

Key contributions included:

- Developing front-end interfaces using Webflow
- Implementing dynamic back-end logic with PHP
- Understanding architecture integration between UI and server processes
- Independently researching and solving technical challenges
- Strengthening his problem-solving mindset in a virtual environment

Biggest Skills and Knowledge Gains:

Full-Stack Development Thinking

Independent Problem-Solving

Technical Integration & Logic Design



The highlight wasn't just learning front-end or back-end development – it was the moment when I understood how they work together. That realization changed how I see modern web applications and gave me confidence in full-stack development.



Outcome:

- ✓ Transitioned from working with isolated technologies to thinking like a full-stack developer.
- ✓ Gained the confidence to design and connect both front-end interfaces and back-end systems, positioning himself strongly for future roles in web and application development.



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