

Collaborate: Nurture Innovation

An opportunity to access student design expertise and work together on a design related challenge with up to £1000 funding support

Brunel University's Product and Industrial Design courses are amongst the highest rated in the UK. Since 2004, Designplus has brought together students from these courses with industry partners to work on a huge range of Design projects. This year we are offering funded opportunities to collaborate with the Brunel Design students.

The students returning from a year working in industry in September will be in their fourth and final year, and the work is undertaken as their 'Major Project', the culmination of the knowledge they have gained on their course. Standards are very high, with work exhibited at the MADE IN BRUNEL exhibition in June of each year, and included in an internationally distributed book published by Papadakis.

Students work on a variety of real-life design challenges, supported and guided by their supervising tutor. For the first time, funding has become available to support companies and students entering into these partnerships. Up to £1000 is available to organisations with fewer than 250 employees. The only requirement is that the funding is matched, either through direct project costs, or through indirect costs, such as the cost of time management.

This is an opportunity, not only to access a useful design resource, but also to add considerable value to a student's education and career prospects; to support the next generation of innovators. All potential briefs and intellectual property arrangements are carefully discussed with Brunel University staff as part of the process.

TIMESCALE

End July	Deadline to express an interest in working with a student
August	Discussion of your project brief, IP and access to funding
17 September	Deadline for signing Final Briefs and scheme documentation
Late September	Briefing sessions held with final year students. Short selection process
October - late April	Students complete projects
June	MADE IN BRUNEL exhibition showcasing final year projects and Industry Collaborations

Previous Collaborations

ONZO | Tio

Tio is a lightswitch which provides a simple way to engage and educate children about their lighting's energy consumption and its effect on the environment. Tio encourages children to turn lights off, and becomes more irritable the longer they are left on. Tio allows energy use to be tracked over time, engaging children to make a personal contribution to reducing energy consumption.

Tim Holley (BSc Industrial Design) in collaboration with ONZO, a London based smart metering systems company, in 2008-2009. www.onzo.com



Lightweight Medical | Neonatal Acoustic Protection System

As a result of attending a Designplus Forum in 2005, Lightweight Medical selected Brunel Design as a partner for collaborative design projects. This initial project involved a complex technical and human centred brief; developing a product to protect the hearing of vulnerable premature babies during transit to specialist hospitals. Specialist input included a team at Glasgow Royal Infirmary and acoustic testing at Birmingham University.

Jono Jones (BSc Product Design) in collaboration with Lightweight Medical in 2005-2006.

www.lightweight-medical.co.uk