

Work Experience – Information for students

Work Experience is a compulsory part of study programmes for students aged 16 to 18 (age at enrolment) and is just as important as the core subjects.

Work Experience is a fantastic opportunity for you to work with an employer or organisation. For many students this will be the first time working with other people, taking instruction and having a taste of what it is like to be in a work environment. It can be linked to your long-term career aspirations however, sometimes it is hard to get a perfect match.

Work Experience is a great opportunity to 'shine' and this could potentially lead to part-time, full-time employment or an apprenticeship.

Important Information

Work Experience may vary in length which will depend on your course and level. Some placements can be as short as 10 hours, but on average work experience is for 30 hours and conducted over one week across Monday – Friday.

It may sometimes be outside of the normal Monday to Friday 9 to 5; such as hotels, catering, theatre, events and sports. Remember work experience is to give you a taste of the real world of work and that means working the usual hours for that industry sector.

Work Experience placements are unpaid. If you are sourcing your own placement, you cannot be paid for it and it cannot be your existing part-time job.

Work Experience can be a great way to boost your CV for when you start looking for jobs. Employers like to see details of work experience, especially if you can evidence good feedback from your placement.