

## **Supported Internships: Factsheet for Learners and Parents**



### **What are supported internships?**

Supported internships are a study programme aimed at young people aged 16 to 24 who have an education, health and care (EHC) plan and need extra support to move into employment.

### **Why were supported internships introduced?**

Supported internships were introduced by the government in 2013 to prepare young people with special educational needs and disabilities with the skills needed for adulthood and employment.

### **How do they work?**

Although supported internships are a study programme, most of the learning takes place at work over 10 months from September to July. You will spend up to 30 hours a week working in a range of different areas learning 'on the job' with the support of a Job Coach. One day a week you will study for a City & Guilds qualification in Employability Skills at college along with maths and English qualifications suitable to your level.

Your employer gives you work experience and trains you to do a job role while you learn the skills needed for work.

### **Is there a choice of employer?**

We work with a range of employers offering a number of placement types across different geographical areas. While we try to meet their business needs, we will also take your key interests, personality, skills and location into account before offering a placement.

### **Will there be a chance to visit the employer before the start of the placement?**

We recognise a 10 month placement with an employer is a big commitment and there is the opportunity to take part in workplace visits and taster sessions as part of the college work experience programme before applying for a supported internship.

### **How is the supported internship funded?**

The college will submit a funding application to the Department for Work and Pensions Access to Work fund on your behalf. This covers the cost of a Job Coach and can include funding for travel to and from the workplace as well as specialist equipment required on the employer's premises.

There is no set amount for an Access to Work grant. The amount received depends on your circumstances and you will still be able to get benefits for your day-to-day life.

### **What about travel to work?**

Interns are expected to travel to work independently but support with travel training will be provided, using whichever form of public transport best suits you.

### **What support is available?**

Each intern is allocated a Job Coach and designated member of staff or 'work buddy' within the employer who will provide support throughout the day. Mobile apps such as Brain in Hand may also be available to provide specialist support relating to managing work related tasks.

### **What if there are problems during the internship?**

The supported internship aims to provide the best possible work experience opportunities for you. If for whatever reason the placement isn't right then you should talk to your Job Coach and the college will endeavour to find a suitable alternative to meet your needs and aspirations.

### **Why should I do a supported internship?**

Taking part in a supported internship can lead to huge benefits including additional qualifications, potential job opportunities, valuable transferable skills, an enhanced CV, and further developed teamwork and communication skills.

### **What are the chances of getting paid employment?**

Although a paid position isn't guaranteed at the end of the placement, the aim of the supported internship is to provide young people with disabilities the skills and experience to take the step into paid employment.

In 2018, 24 young people did a supported internship placement with Hereward College and 55% secured paid employment as a direct result of their internship. The remaining 45% went on to use their skills in the voluntary sector or to further their education.

### **How do I get started?**

Come along to one of our Open Days or contact Hereward College's employability team [employability@hereward.ac.uk](mailto:employability@hereward.ac.uk) 024 7642 6175 to arrange a discussion. More information can also be found at [www.hereward.ac.uk/supportedinternships](http://www.hereward.ac.uk/supportedinternships)

*"I am happy being at work, I have done lots of training and learnt new skills. I'm really pleased to have found a job and would recommend this experience to my friends as it might inspire them to do something they enjoy and they might just get a job out of it"*

Luke, previous intern and WM Housing employee