

Providing work placements for students aged 18-24
who have an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)

Supported Internships



Talkback

DEVELOPING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES



My supported internship is amazing. I'm really enjoying it here. Everyone is extremely friendly. I'm enjoying all of the tasks. Even mucking out the pigs!

What is a supported internship?

A supported internship is a programme primarily focused on a work placement, for students aged 18-24 in receipt of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Here are some of the key details.

Is it paid?

No. Interns are students whilst on a Supported Internship.

How does a Supported Internship differ from Work Experience?

Work experience takes place over a short period of time or for one day a week. With this you learn about the world of work and develop strategies to gain general employment skills.

A Supported Internship includes a placement matching your hopes for longer-term employment. It is focused on helping you develop the skills and independence for that role, or a similar role. The expectation is that you can and will progress to employment.

How long is the Supported Internship?

It lasts for one year, mirroring the academic year. The programme begins in September, with off-the-job skills development activities. In the second half-term the work placement begins.

How is the Internship designed?

This programme is 3 days a week (9am-4pm), and runs during term time. In September and October the student will be in the classroom or community practising job skills and improving maths and English skills.

From then on the student will be in a workplace for two days a week, and in the classroom or community for one day a week.



How do we pick work placements?

We have existing partnerships with a wide range of organisations across the Thames Valley. And we regularly approach new potential employers to reflect the aspirations of our members.

So, we always work with students to explore their preferences. We then approach employers who are a good match to develop the necessary skills for an employed role.

The first half term of the programme includes support in developing your approach to employers. So, even though Talkback has a partnership with employers you are able to communicate what you can do, and what you want to do, directly to the employer in your own way.

Your communication with the employer will include letting them know how they can help you to do your best, and if you need particular support or equipment for this.

A Supported Internship includes a placement matching your hopes for longer-term employment. Skills development is focused on helping you develop the skills and independence for that role, or a similar role. The expectation is that you can, and will, progress to employment.

Will you have a job coach?





Yes. The Talkback Job Coach shadows you in the workplace. As your confidence develops, the Job Coach hopes to reduce their time with you, so you can work independently.

We work with the employer and you to ensure you are contributing to the business, and to identify further skills needs, which will feed into the ongoing design of the off-the-job programme.



How to apply

If you have already experienced the world of work through your careers provision in secondary school or post-16 education and have a strong motivation to work, then our programme is for you. To join the programme, you also need to meet the following criteria:

-  You are 18-25 years old.
-  You have completed an employability or other school/FE programme.
-  You have previously accessed independent travel training.
-  You have achieved Entry Level 1 or above in Literacy and Numeracy.

The application process and timings

Talk about your hopes for employment in your annual reviews.

Apply for a place on the Supported Internship Programme through your local college (between October and June).

Meet with us. We check you meet the criteria, discuss your hopes, and whether we think we can help you move towards employment.

All being good, we will confirm your starting arrangements (by July).

You start your Supported Internship journey with us! (September)

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