



Independent Training
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Supported Work Placements - Students

Student Placements

Our professional work experience team supports and organises work experience for students in schools. The team visits employer placements to make sure they are safe and suitable.

ITEC can help young people and their parents think about the sort of placement that will meet their needs and interests and to consider career aspirations and vocational choices.

Employers

A placement is a step into the world of work. Your future employer is not only looking for qualifications, they also want employees who have some experience of the 'real world'. A placement provides you with a way to achieve this.

Employers value the importance of workplace skills. Any work experience will add to future job opportunities and your skills profile, complimenting those you develop during your school and through extra activities at school.

An overview of placements

A placement or work experience is a planned period of time with an employer to gain experience of the working world or of a particular industry or sector. Work placements are different from volunteering because the main focus is that you gain working skills.

A work placement can be arranged through your school with ITEC.

What is Work Experience?

- A placement in a company for students to gain experience of being at work
- A placement in a company for students to gain experience and the skills required for a particular industry
- It can take the format of one or two weeks as a block or it could be a day a week over a few weeks or longer term over months
- Students can do work experience alongside their normal curriculum

Why do Work Experience?

A placement can give you the opportunity to find out how a local or national company works. It can also help you to think about what you want to do in your future. Advantages of a work placement:

- There is a possibility of a future offer of permanent employment by the organisation
- You will learn organisational, self -management and personal skills, develop an awareness of workplace culture and help build your confidence and motivation.
- It gives you the opportunity to gain skills for work, which are important when looking for a job or an apprenticeship
- Its an opportunity to experience the world of work in a working environment and to try out the skills that are needed in the workplace
- Work experience can help you choose a career path or vocation
- Work experience looks good on a CV and helps at interviews

It doesn't matter if it is a day, a term or a year, a work placement can help you to make decisions about your future career - to discover what you like and dislike about the work, what your strengths and weaknesses are and what possibilities there are for your future.

How to make the most of a placement

ITEC will help you to set realistic personal goals and devise a placement outline to follow. You will have regular meetings with your supervisor(s) and a member or ITEC support team. You will be able to share your experiences as well as have a progress reports.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Always remember that a placement is a learning experience for you. While the employer expects a certain level of work from you, you are not expected to know everything. Ask questions whenever you come across something you don't know. Be open to new ideas remember that you don't know everything!

ITEC will support and work with you and your workplace mentor. A mentor is someone at a higher level in the organisation that looks out for you and makes sure you are learning what you need to know and accomplishing what you need to do. A mentor will be a person for you to discuss ideas, ask questions, etc.

Leave the placement with something positive:

- You can get a reference from the employer
- You can add your work experience onto your CV and in applications for training or jobs
- There could be potential opportunities for the future for employment
- There could be apprenticeship opportunities if you choose this career path

Most of all.....

Enjoy yourself. Most placements are great experiences, so make sure you have some fun while you're working and learning.

If you are happy to undertake a work placement please discuss with your teacher and ask for a meeting with a support member of the ITEC team