



## A PARENT'S GUIDE TO SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS



### What is a supported internship?

A supported internship programme is a work-based learning programme for 16-24 year olds who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Supported internships usually start in the autumn term when interns are enrolled onto a full-time educational course. The programme of study will include a work placement which will be a substantial part of the course. Supported internships are offered by a learning provider, such as a local college, in collaboration with an employer, and each intern will receive support from a job coach to ensure their educational and training needs are met.

Designed to give students a taste of working life, supported internships last for a minimum of 6 months up to a year. The job coach will then support the interns' transition into paid employment once secured.

### Aims of a supported internship

**Transition into paid employment:** once the supported internship has finished, the young person will have developed demonstrable skills valued by employers.

**Preparing for adulthood:** the young person will have gained opportunities to improve their preparation for adulthood outcomes, including their independence.

**Empowering young people:** young people with SEND are able to plan and make informed choices about their future.





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## FAQs

### **When should my child be looking for a supported internship?**

As supported internships are for young people aged 16-24 years, it's a good idea to start making connections or exploring options with colleges and providers as early as Y9. The school SENCO should be able to support the young person with this and it can be part of the preparation for adulthood planning and identified outcomes during preparation for adulthood annual reviews from Y9 onwards.

### **Are supported internships paid?**

No. This is because they are full-time education courses with work placements built into them. However, the goal is to help young interns transition into paid employment on completion of the course.

### **What are the benefits of a supported internship?**

There are numerous benefits of supported internships:

Helping young people to build confidence and valuable skills whilst gaining experience in the workplace;

Developing greater independence by supporting young people to learn about the world of work, day to day organisation, time management, problem-solving and the practising of new skills in a safe environment;

Growing a social network through working and studying with other young people and meeting employees and employers in the workplace.

### **What is the difference between a supported internship and an apprenticeship?**

Supported internships are work-based study programmes that aim to support young people with EHCPs into employment. This means they will require a different level of support compared to an apprentice. Apprenticeships are paid jobs that include off-the-job training.

### **Does my child need to have achieved certain grades to carry out a supported internship?**

There are no specific entry requirements to enrol on a supported internship. Each learning provider will work with their supported interns to develop a personalised programme that meets their needs and provides progression.

### **What kind of work can supported internships lead to?**

Following their supported internships, interns have gone on to work in roles in customer service, administration, catering, retail and beyond. Some interns have moved onto further training opportunities.