



What are Supported Internships?



A short guide for learners

What is changing about education and learning from 16 - 24?



Many young people with learning difficulties or learning disabilities want to get a job. It can be hard for them to get a job.



Young people with more severe learning disabilities often find it very hard to get a job.



From September 2013, all young people (16 - 24), including those with a Learning Difficulty Assessment, or an Education Health and Care Plan will be offered a **study programme**.



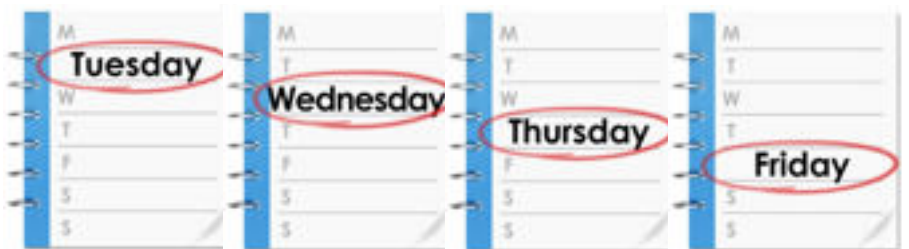
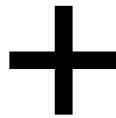
A **study programme** is a course that is put together for a young person that will:

- help you get a job and live independently
- get qualifications if that is what you need
- help you with Maths and English so you can use them in real life

What are Supported Internships?



Supported internships can be a good way of having a study programme that helps you to get a job. What makes them different is that you do most of your learning at work and some in college. This means you can 'learn on the job'.



A supported internship could be the right choice for you if you know you learn best by 'doing'.

The most important thing is that you really want to get **paid work**. Supported internships are all about working towards a **paid job**.

How can I find out about Supported Internships where I live?



You can find out about supported internships:

- from school
- from college
- from your social worker or transition worker
- from Job Centre Plus



From September 2014 your Local Authority has to publish a **Local Offer**. This will tell you what is available locally, including what help there is to get a paid job.

When should I tell people I want a Supported Internship?



As soon as you think you might want a supported internship you should talk to your teacher or your transition worker. This could be at your Year 9 or 10 review at school when you are thinking about work and work experience.

How do I know a Supported Internship programme is good?



Good supported internships will:

- have clear information about the internship and how it works
- have a way for you to talk to someone who has done a supported internship and find out how it worked for them
- spend time with you and your family making sure that the internship is right for you and that you really do want to get paid work
- have job coaches to help you think about your skills and what you want to do
- keep checking that things are working well

How can I get the funding and will it affect my benefits?



If you are aged 16 to 24 and have a Learning Difficulty Assessment or an Education, Health and Care Plan, then colleges can use their funding for your supported internship.

You might also be able to get extra money for support from social services (you will have to have an assessment).



You might also be able to get extra money called **Access to Work** (you will have to fill in an application form). This money is for your support to go to work.



You will still be able to get benefits for your day to day life.

If you want more information about benefits and funding you should talk to your social worker or transition worker. They will also be able to help you work out how paid work will affect your benefits.

Can young people with learning difficulties or disabilities really get paid jobs?



Yes they can!

You can find some stories here on the Preparing for Adulthood website:

<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/resources/stories>

How does it work?



Anya is 16 and in Year 11 at school. She lives with her Mum and her big sister, Lucy. She found out about supported internships from her friend Marek and from her transition worker.



They talked about it at her Year 10 review in school. Marek told Anya how college sorted out his supported internship in the local supermarket. He has a paid job there now and really likes it.



In February, Anya went with her Mum to an information session at the local college where she heard from other young people who had been on a supported internship. She thought it sounded great and decided that's what she wanted to do!



In March, Anya and her Mum went to a meeting with people at college to talk about the supported internship programme. Anya had to show that she really wanted to get a job and that she would stick at the internship. Anya's Mum had to show that she would support Anya to do this.



In June, Anya and her Mum met a **job coach** called Mary. She helped Anya think about all the things she is good at, the things she knows about and what her dreams for the future are.



Anya loves animals and has always dreamed of being a vet. Mary helped Anya think about the things that she was good at that could help her to have a job at a vets.



Mary and Anya talked about the things she wanted to learn about at college. They agreed that Anya would work on understanding money better.....



.....keep working on her reading.....



....and that she would learn to use the bus to get to her work placement and to college.



At the vets she will have the chance to learn about different jobs. The first thing Anya wants to learn is how to hold animals when the vet gives them an injection or medicine.



She also wants to practise talking to people on the phone.



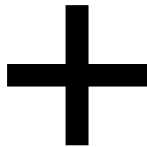
Anya's internship starts in **September**.....



.....it will finish in **July** next year.



Anya will spend one day a week in college.



She will spend 4 days a week at her local vets. Not everyone decides to work 4 days a week, but this was right for Anya.

She will go to work all year, even during the college holidays. She will agree some holiday days with the vets just like everyone else who works there.



Mary will keep supporting Anya at the vets and in college. They will keep talking about the things that Anya needs to learn about at college or at work. They will keep working towards Anya getting a **paid job**.

If you are the parent, guardian or supporter of a young person with learning difficulties or disabilities, you can find out more about supported internships from the Preparing for Adulthood website:
<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/supported-internships>