



Instant Starter:

Discuss with your partner:

What three benefits will taking part in work experience have for you?

Today we will be going to the hall to learn about work experience and how to maximise this opportunity this year.



Father in Heaven,
You have given us a mind to know you, a will
to serve you
and a heart to love you
Be with us today in all that we do so that your
light
may shine in our lives.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we are
transformed and drawn closer to you.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen





What are
the
benefits?



Work experience: busting myths

What is work experience really all about?

Myth #1

'Work experience is mostly about photocopying and making tea—you won't be given anything important to do'



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This is probably the most common myth about work experience, probably because this is exactly what work experience was a very long time ago! Thankfully, those days are long gone; it's not true that students on work experience only do menial tasks or 'busy work'. Nowadays, employers understand that students need to complete tasks that will help them learn about the company and the role, and that will help develop their skills. So you could be given tasks like researching competitors, working on an independent project, summarising important documents, or creating presentations.



Work experience: busting myths

What is work experience really all about?

Myth #2

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While job 'shadowing' might form part of your work experience, many workplaces will encourage you to spend time with different staff members and teams, to help you learn about all of the different job roles needed to make their organisation successful. You might even get the chance to spend your last day with the team / department of your choice.



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Myth #3

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Most students are unlikely to know what industry they want to work in in the future; even if you do, you might not be able to complete work experience in it (for example, you probably won't be flown out to Hollywood or allowed to watch a live surgery!)

Instead of worrying about how this experience 'fits in' to what you want to do when you're older, think about it as a chance to experience something new that isn't school or a club.

You'll get the chance to find out:

How companies and organisations operate, what kinds of job roles are available, how to behave in a professional environment, more about your own strengths, values, motivations, and interests, which elements of work you'd like to rule out—which is just as valuable as knowing what you **do** like doing!

You'll also develop some of your 'soft skills', like:

Communication, teamworking, problem solving, accountability, learning, resilience / adaptability (the ability to 'bounce back' or adapt when things don't go to plan)

Whatever job you try, you'll gain useful skills and experience, and learn more about yourself and working life.



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What is work experience really all about?

Myth #4

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We've already looked at the skills you'll build and the experiences you'll have. Let's focus on the 'future'. Whether you enjoy your time on work experience or not, it'll give you things to write about on your CV or in applications, and things to talk about in an interview, even if it's not directly related to the job or field of study you're applying for.

Lots of interview questions start with 'tell me about a time when you...' where employers or admissions teams are looking for your experiences of dealing with challenges, handling feedback, or achieving something. These are all applicable to every industry and field of study; you'll be able to use your time on work experience to prepare answers to these questions for your future interviews.



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What is work experience really all about?

Myth #5

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While you should do some background research on the company or organisation you'll be joining, you won't be expected to know absolutely everything about them. In fact, if you're overconfident, you may come across as arrogant; you need to show that you're informed, but willing to learn. If you do find yourself out of your depth, don't be afraid to ask questions and don't panic if you make a mistake — you're there to learn, so no one will expect you to know absolutely everything!



Work experience: busting myths

What is work experience really all about?

Myth #6

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There are some companies who use work experience as an opportunity to spot early talent and recruit for their apprenticeships and school leaver programmes. However, most work experience programmes are just that: a chance for you to get some experience. Most of the time, the people you work with will be happy to share their own experiences or top tips on getting a job at the company or in a similar industry, but the company is unlikely to offer you a job, even if you've completed all of the tasks that were asked of you. The point of work experience is for you to gain valuable experience—not an offer of employment. Focus on learning and doing a good job, rather than how impressive you can be.



Any questions?

Please TEAMs message Miss Kerr or
see her in the careers office during
break or lunch times