

Y10 Work Experience, Monday 8 – Friday 12 July 2024

Form time work experience Q&A, Dec 2023

What is the most popular workplace people choose to go on work experience?

Primary schools are quite popular (often because they can take more than one student) so quite a number of students end up in primary schools. Please don't just look at primary schools. Students do end up in a wide range of different placements.

Where would you recommend to go?

It is important to think about what you want and the setting you would like to work in. You can then start looking at the businesses that are accessible for you to get to, and then start to contact them. The placement needs to be right for you, ideally fitting in with something you are interested in, but don't worry if it isn't your dream job. In Y10, work experience is mainly about finding out about the workplace, working out what you do (and don't) like. You will have more opportunities for work experience again in sixth form or college.

Can you get paid for doing work experience?

Don't expect to be paid. This is not normal practice for work experience. The employer is doing you a favour to give you this experience which will help you in the future. Having said that, some employers have been kind enough to give students a gift or some money for their time, but please don't expect this.

Can you work in a homeless shelter/voluntary sector?

We have had students work with charities and in the voluntary sector. We can't guarantee that you would get hands-on work in a homeless shelter, but you may be able to help with work behind the scenes or in the office.

Are there any work experience placements available in performing arts in Sheffield?

[Sheffield Theatres](#) have offered work experience in previous years, but you could also try the smaller theatres in Sheffield or theatre groups. The Sheffield Theatres work experience sometimes falls outside the school's work experience dates; please come and see us in the Careers Office if the 2024 dates don't match ours and we will see if there is anything we can do.

What if I would like to work in a medical environment?

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals have started doing work experience again after moving to virtual experience since the pandemic. Unfortunately, they do not offer clinical/patient-facing experience to under 16s; you could apply for this when you are at sixth form or college.

Instead, you could try Sheffield Children's Hospital, private hospitals and hospitals outside Sheffield, but these may also have an under-16 rule. We have had Y10 students go out on work experience at GPs and medical centres, physiotherapy practices, special schools and care homes. If you want a health or medical career, any experience working with people will be beneficial, even if it's not in a medical setting.

Can you go back to your old primary school even if you are not considering a job as a teacher?

You can approach primary schools for jobs other than teaching (working in the office, finance, maybe helping a caretaker). Local primary schools often prefer it if you don't go back to the primary school that you attended, so try other primary schools in the area where you live.

Would you be able to do mechanical engineering or would this be classed as dangerous?

Mechanical engineering work experience is definitely possible. We have had students do this in the past. Engineering companies have lots of rules to follow to make sure everyone is safe in the workplace.

How do I go about getting a placement? Are all employers open to taking on students?

It is not always possible for every employer to take on a work experience student; it is a big commitment for them and they need to make sure they have the correct insurance and risk assessments in place.

Our tips would be to think about where you could go or would like to go for work experience, then contact a selection of places you would like to work for. Ask around friends and family contacts, and use our ideas list from the school website. When you contact them, try to target your request to say why specifically you would like work experience at that particular organisation. If you email or phone and they don't come back to you, leave it a week or two and give them another try (make sure you are polite and respectful).

What is the most common industry to find work experience in? Also, what is the least common/hardest industry to find work experience in?

That's a tricky question. Probably primary schools will take the biggest number of students as they might take a number of students, not just one. Hard industries might be the police and some Armed Forces (although you could build experience in other settings which would develop skills needed for these jobs). Working on a construction site can be difficult because of the safety rules in place and the need for a CSCS card, but it may be possible to visit a construction site as a visitor as part of work experience.

Can you work outside of Sheffield - is there any restrictions on distance?

Yes, you can. No restrictions on distance, as long as parent/carers agree. Think about how far is practical to travel there and back in a day. If you're going further out of the area, you will normally need to be able to stay with friends or family.

An email address is "not recognised" on Unifrog. How can they reset this to get a login?

Try using your school email address on www.unifrog.org and select reset password. If this doesn't work, ask in the Careers Office (next to the library).

Is there a list of work experience placement ideas on Unifrog?

Not on Unifrog, but this list will be up on the school website (along with further useful information about work experience).

What if we can't find a place that will take us?

You will need to be persistent and keep trying to find a placement. Start early and keep at it.

If you need help, ask in the Careers Office, email careers@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk and come to the careers drop-in L10 after school on Wednesdays. We will do our best to help you, but we will have some back-up plans in place in case you face real problems.

When do we start to apply?

You can start now. The earlier you start, the better. You may find it difficult to make much progress over the Christmas period, so start again in the New Year. We need you to have completed the

Placement Tool on Unifrog with details of your placement by 1 March 2024.

How many hours a day are you expected to work?

This varies from workplace to workplace. Ideally we'd be looking at you working at least around 25 hours per week (like you do at school), but often employers will ask you to fit around their working hours. This could mean starting a bit earlier, working a bit later etc. As a young person, there are rules about the hours you can work in a paid job, but those rules don't apply to work experience in the same way. If you have any concerns about the hours you have been asked to work, come and talk to us in the Careers Office.