

# NATIONAL SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP DAY

27 MARCH 2024

[www.dfnprojectsearch.org](http://www.dfnprojectsearch.org)

[www.internshipswork.org.uk](http://www.internshipswork.org.uk)

Internships  
**WORK**

# The Basics

National Supported Internship Day (NSID) was founded by DFN Project SEARCH and takes place on March 27th annually. NSID was launched in 2023 with the aim of putting supported internships on the map, and thanks to you we achieved that. Last year, the campaign reached 8 million people across the UK and had thousands of individuals and organisations celebrating supported internships.

Building on this momentum, this year's NSID is a collaborative effort with Base and NDTi which will allow us all to reach even more young adults with learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions.

The theme for NSID this year is **amplifying the voices of young people**. A carefully crafted program of activities has been developed to reflect this.

The aim of National Supported Internship Day is to raise awareness supported internships and the challenges facing our sector. This year, the focus is on placing young adults at the forefront of our messaging, sharing their stories across the UK.

We have a planned programme of Parliamentary activity that Youth Futures Foundation have generously agreed to sponsor, which includes a reception for over 80 interns and graduates.

Alongside the programme of activity, we will be running two competitions that are exclusive for DFN Project SEARCH sites and your support in spreading the word and creating excitement around these competitions is crucial

In this pack is information that will assist in making NSID 2024 a success.

For additional details, please reach out to Roberta.  
[roberta.kirosingh@dfnprojectsearch.org](mailto:roberta.kirosingh@dfnprojectsearch.org)

# Overview of Events

Below is an overview of the activity taking place in Parliament for National Supported Internship Day. The range of activity will enable young people to share their stories and have them amplified by Members of Parliament.

Activity	Date/Time	Notes
National Supported Internship Day Drop-in	20th March 2-4pm Portcullis House	An event for MPs to learn about NSID from Internship Works.
National Supported Internship Day Reception	25TH March 9am – 11am Terrace Pavillion	This is a reception for young adults in Parliament.
Advocacy and Mentoring Workshop	25th March 12-2pm Portcullis House	This is a workshop for young adults in Parliament.
National Supported Internship Day Debate	TBC Parliament	This is a debate where MPs will raise awareness of SI's.



**This is a list of official NSID activity taking place.  
However we are actively encouraging organisations across the UK to host their own celebrations.**

# How can I get involved?

Below are a number of ways you can encourage sites and organisations to get involved with National Supported Internship Day 2024.

## Nominate a young person

We are hosting two events in Parliament for interns & graduates. You can nominate or encourage a young person to apply for a space to take part at one of the events.

## Host an Event

Whether you are a business or an educator, we want you to unleash your creativity and host your own NSID celebratory event.



## Enter a Competition

We are hosting two competitions this year. The People's Choice Awards (exclusively for DFN PS sites) and the #DoYourBit challenge. Help us create a buzz for NSID by entering!

## Write to your MP

We have created a template letter that you can use to share your thoughts on supported internships with your MP. Let them know why high-quality supported internship provision is important!

## Social Media

Spread the word! We will be releasing social media resource but in the meantime use the hashtags #NSID24 and #NationalSupportedInternshipDay to share case studies & more!

# Nominate a Young Person

## to attend our events

In celebration of National Supported Internship Day, we are organising two events specifically for interns and program graduates. We need your help in raising awareness among young adults about the scheduled events and encouraging them to apply, ensuring they are aware of their eligibility.

### The Events

- NSID Reception – Monday 25th March from 9:30am- 11am. This is a breakfast reception where interns and graduates will get the opportunity to share their experiences and network in Parliament.
- Parliamentary Workshop – Monday 25th March from 12–2pm. This is a workshop where interns and graduates will develop their advocacy skills and learn how to write to their MP. They will also take part in reverse mentoring sessions with a Member of Parliament.

### How to apply

Please complete an application form no later than 4pm on March 7th 2024. Applications will then be assessed and those who are successful will be notified by Monday 11th March.

You can access the form by scanning the QR code or clicking [here](#).



# **Host An Event**

## **to raise awareness about SIs**

Whether you are a Local Authority, a business, a SIs provider or an educator, we want you to unleash your creativity and host your own NSID celebratory event!

### **Events ideas for your organisations' NSID**

- **Q&A and Information Sessions:** Facilitate a direct dialogue between attendees and panelists from various stakeholder groups, answering questions and clarifying details about SIs. Highlights benefits, eligibility, and application processes through presentations and brochures.
- **Drop-in Session:** Offer an open, flexible forum for individuals to learn about supported internships, speak one-on-one with representatives, and gather resources at their own pace.
- **Youth-Employer Engagement Session (for LAs/Providers):** Host an interactive event where young people share their supported internship experiences directly with potential employers, highlighting the value and perspectives of the future workforce.
- **Interactive Workshops:** Host engaging workshops with role-playing and simulations to give attendees a hands-on understanding of supported internships, showcasing real-life challenges and achievements.
- **Showcase and Awards:** Celebrate with a showcase of intern projects and achievements, award and recognise outstanding interns, employers, and support strategies.
- **Experience Days:** Allow participants to shadow supported interns and engage with mentors for a day, providing an immersive look into the daily workings of supported internships.
- **Innovation Hackathon:** Invite stakeholders to a hackathon to drive innovative solutions for enhancing supported internship programmes, with the potential for winning ideas to influence and impact programmes.

# **People's Choice Awards**

## Enter a Competition

DFN Project SEARCH is excited to announce the "People's Choice Competition," an opportunity for sites to showcase their creativity, teamwork, and engagement. The competition encourages sites to get as creative as possible in spreading the word about their unique supported internship offer. The site with the most votes will receive a prize.

### Timeline:

- **Voting Period: Feb 12th to March 27th**
- **Winner Announcement: March 29th**

### Competition Rules:

- Any pictures/videos must have consent from those within the image

### Entry Requirements:

- Develop a creative way to showcase your site. Whether that be a highlight of the sites achievements, impact or beyond.
- You can write a story, take pictures or videos of you in action, host an event, create a dance, paint a picture or beyond. The world is your creative oyster. Last year, a site completed three wainwright summits to raise awareness of their work!

# **People's Choice Awards**

## Enter a Competition

### Spread the Word:

- Utilise your steering committee and their connections, social media, newsletters, and other channels to promote your site and the competition to encourage votes from all of your connections as a partnership.
- Sites are encouraged to get creative in their promotion efforts, showcasing their unique spirit. The more creative, the more votes you may receive from your connections!

### Voting:

- Voting will take place online during the designated voting period via a voting form.
- Each person voting is allowed one vote.
- Voters can be anyone including people within your community, Department, Managers and Mentors as well as families parents and carers

### Prize:

- The winning site will receive a special prize.

### Submission Process:

- **Submit your entry by simply using the hashtag #NSID24 when posting your showcase online, or by emailing us your submission to [roberta.kirosingh@dfnprojectsearch.org](mailto:roberta.kirosingh@dfnprojectsearch.org)**

# #MyBitForChange

## Challenge

As we gear up to celebrate **National Supported Internship Day on March 27th, 2024**, we have launched a challenge for our partners and stakeholders.

We are passionate about changing lives and we want to lead this change across business. Supported internships play a crucial role in the UK for disabled individuals, providing a transformative pathway toward greater inclusivity, independence, and career prospects. These programs are designed to bridge the gap between education and employment, offering tailored support to young people with disabilities as they navigate the professional landscape.

We want you to sign up for the employer ambassador training which will provide you with the tools you need to have completed the employer ambassador training prior to NSID. However, the business with largest number of employer ambassadors will receive a special prize.

### How to enter

1. Sign Up for the Employer Ambassador Training
2. Encourage as many of your colleagues within your organisation to sign-up and complete the employer champion training.

### Winner

- The winner will be announced on March 28th 2024.

### Eligibility

- The Employer Ambassador training is only for those from Businesses offering supported internships already or keen to do so. It is not designed for professionals who are involved in delivering supported internships as teachers, coaches or local authorities.



# **Write to your Member of Parliament**

This activity is open to all. Everyone could and should write to their local MP to share why supported internships are important to them and also raise concerns or challenges that are facing your sector at a local or national level. Feel free to use the below template.

## **STEP 1: FIND YOUR LOCAL MP**

Enter your post code [here](#) to find out who your local MP is and their contact details.

## **STEP 2: DRAFT YOUR EMAIL**

You can write your own email or use the template on the next page. .

## **STEP 3: SEND YOUR EMAIL**



# Write to your MP

## Template

(Insert Your Address)

Dear X,

I am writing to you as a constituent, asking for your support for young adults with learning disabilities and/or autism spectrum conditions in our constituency.

Did you know that only 4.8% of young adults in England with a learning disability known to their local authority are employed?

Supported internships are a work-based program of study that provides young adults with both qualifications and practical skills to successfully transition into the workplace.

Supported internships are important to me because (FILL IN THE BLANK)...

However, we are facing several challenges. Including (FILL IN THE BLANK)...

You can support this vital pathway by raising awareness of National Supported Internship Day on March 27th, 2024. There is a variety of activity taking place in Parliament, and I hope you will represent your constituents at them.

As my constituency MP, please:

- Attend the National Supported Internship Day drop-in on March 20th from 2-4 pm in Portcullis House, Room S.
- Sign the National Supported Internship Day EDM.
- Visit a local supported internship program.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]

# Social Media

The purpose of National Supported Internship Day is to raise awareness of supported internships, and we need your help to do this. NSID is an incredible opportunity to shine a spotlight on the importance of supported internships in empowering young people with disabilities to pursue their career aspirations. By sharing your experiences, insights, and successes on social media, you can inspire others to join the movement towards greater inclusivity in the workplace.

**Last year we reached over 8 million people online!**  
Your posts have the power to raise awareness, foster understanding, and encourage employers to embrace diversity and create more inclusive hiring practices.

We have created a series of digital assets to help get you started.

You can access the assets by [clicking here](#).

New content will be added to this folder on a weekly basis!

