

Supported Internships

Planning & Funding Supported Internships

What is a Supported Internship?

A supported internship is a one-year transition to work programme for students on a school or college roll that takes place entirely within business. Using a prestigious business as a skills development laboratory the interns learn marketable skills for employment.

SEND Code of Practice

The [SEND code of practice](#) explicitly states that all children and young people with SEND should be prepared for adulthood and that this preparation should start early. This includes preparing for employment, but also for:

- independent living, including choice and control over:
 - housing options
 - good health in adult life
- participating in society, including:
 - having friends and supportive relationships
 - contributing to the local community

For this to happen, there needs to be an explicit focus on preparation for adulthood within an Education, Health, and Care plan (EHCP) from year 9 annual reviews onwards.

Supported internships are a fantastic opportunity to improve the life chances of young people with SEND by supporting them into sustained, paid employment. Achieving paid employment not only brings young people financial independence, but it can be key to:

- building confidence and self-esteem
- increasing health and well-being
- gaining friendships and a social life

There are also benefits for the economy, employers, families, the local community, and wider society.

(Source: [Guidance, Supported Internships, February 2022](#))

A supported internship ceases when:

- paid employment commences (and the EHC Plan ceases)
- after 12 months, then the provider should support the young person to an alternative destination. Should the supported internship not result in a paid job the provider should support the learner to search for a suitable employment opportunity.

Funding - Education

Supported internships are funded as a 16 to 19 study programme, and as such the main source of funding is from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA); to attract ESFA funding, the provider needs to timetable at least 580 planned learning hours.

The study programme funding is approximately £10,660 (2023/24) for the year.

- Element 1 (Core funding) of £4,660
- Element 2 (High needs place funding) of £6,000

Further funding can be available through the Local Authority using Element 3 (High needs top-up funding) and providers should, at the earliest opportunity, agree and plan their budgets for young people with high needs with commissioning local authorities.

Further information on the [funding system for 16 to 25 high needs students](#) is available.

Funding - DWP

Supported interns can also apply for Access to Work funding to cover the costs of practical support in the workplace (referred to as 'in work support'). This includes:

- Travel costs to/from the work opportunity
- The cost of job coach support whilst at the work opportunity
- Any equipment needed to access the job/workplace

The intern applies for Access to Work which can then continue with them when moving into employment.

Funding - Other

16 – 19 Bursary Fund: The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund is to support 16 to 19-year-olds who are the most financially disadvantaged and those who most need help with the costs of staying in education. Students aged over 19 can apply for the discretionary bursary if they have an EHC plan.

Free School Meals: To be eligible for a free meal, young people must have enrolled in further education provision funded via ESFA.

About Internships Work

Internships Work is a programme funded by the Department for Education, which will double the current supported internship provision in England by enabling 4500 young adults, aged 16-24 with additional needs, to benefit from a supported internship per year by 2025. It is designed to support more young people with additional needs to have greater choice and control over their future, opening up opportunities that prepare them for adult life and independent living.