**FAQs & Ready-Made Social Media Content**

**National Supported Internships Day (NSID) 2024**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

 **What is a supported internship?**

A supported internship is an education programme in a workplace setting designed to help young people with disabilities transition from school to employment. These internships provide opportunities for individuals aged 16 to 24 (up to 25 if they have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan) to gain practical work experience in a real workplace setting.

**What is internships work?**

Internships Work is a project funded by the Department for Education which will enable 4500 young adults, aged 16-25 with additional needs, to benefit from a supported internship per year by 2025.

**Do I get paid on a supported internship?**

As supported internships are full-time programmes of study, you do not get paid. However, participants may receive financial support or benefits through various channels such as Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Personal Independence Payment (PIP), or Universal Credit, depending on their individual circumstances.

Your supported internship provider will be able to answer questions around funding.

**How to find supported internships?**

You can find a supported internship by getting in contact with your local council or college to see if there is provision in your local area.

**What do you do on a supported internship? What jobs can you get after a supported internship?**

Supported Internships are person-centred, and they focus on your personal skills and strengths. Once you have completed your internship the job coaches and business liaisons will work together to find jobs that you fit your skill profile and interests.

**How do I apply for a supported internship?**

Each programme is different, so it is best to ask your local provider. However, a supported internship programme application commonly includes an application form and an interview.

**What support is in a supported internship?**

On a supported internship you get a wide range of personalised support, including a personal development plan. These are based on an individual’s strengths, skills, and interests.

* You get support from a job coach who helps with your day-to-day tasks.
* You get support and encouragement from your tutors.
* You also get support and encouragement from those within the business of which you are working.

**What are the benefits of a supported internship?**

Supported internships are a great opportunity for young people with learning disabilities or autism spectrum conditions to combine work with their education. Benefits of a supported internship include:

* Personalised development programmes
* learning new skills that could be used in future employment
* building confidence and life skills
* Working in a medium to large business setting
* Making friends and developing your social skills
* Support from trained job coaches to help you succeed
* Gaining an accredited and practical qualifications.

**Will a supported internship impact benefits?**

No, any benefits you receive are not affected during the time of the supported internship placement.

If you progress into paid employment, then your benefits may be affected, but your support network will work with you to make sure you have the benefits you are entitled to.

**What will it cost me to offer a supported internship placement?**

There is no financial cost to an employer taking on a supported intern. Young people taking part in a supported internship placement are unpaid as it is part of their programme of study at college.

The funding for the Job Coach and any reasonable adjustments required will be managed by the college or local authority directly with the relevant funding bodies**.**

**SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT**

**Content Creation Support & Templates for Supported Internships Key Partners (Local Authorities, Providers, Colleges, Employers)**

**Objective**: To create engaging and impactful content showcasing real experiences from students, employers, and parents involved in supported internships. This content aims to highlight the benefits, challenges, and achievements associated with these internships, providing a comprehensive view from different perspectives.

**Audience**: Young people with learning disabilities and autism, their parents, and professionals in the private sector.

**Tone and Style**: Inspirational, authentic, and informative.

**Guidelines**

1. **Personalise the Content**: Use real stories and quotes to make your posts relatable. Encourage contributors to share their genuine experiences and emotions.
2. **Be Concise but Impactful**: Each post should be straightforward and to the point, conveying the message effectively within a limited space.
3. **Highlight Transformation**: Focus on the journey of growth and learning, emphasising how challenges were overcome and what was achieved.
4. **Encourage Action**: Inspire your audience to explore supported internships, whether they are potential interns, supportive employers, or encouraging parents.

**Templates:** These templates provide a structured yet flexible framework

**Sharing Supported Interns’ Perspective**

**1. Overcoming Challenges**

* **Brief**: Share a story about a challenge faced by a student during their internship and how they overcame it.
* **Copy**: Meet [Student Name], who conquered [Challenge] during their supported internship at [Company Name]. [Insert student’s quote talking about challenge and how they overcame it].

Find out more about [name of your local area/LA/council/organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**2. Proud Achievements**

* **Brief**: Highlight a proud achievement of a student during their internship.
* **Copy**: "[Student Name] didn't just complete [His/Her/Their] supported internship; [He/She/They] achieved [Achievement], setting a new benchmark for success. [Insert student’s quote talking about their achievements and pride].

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**3. Assumptions vs. Reality**

* **Brief**: Contrast a student's initial assumption about supported internships with the reality they discovered.
* **Copy**: [Student Name] thought [Assumption], but [Supported Internship Experience] taught [Him/Her/Them] [Reality]. [Insert student’s quote talking about assumption vs reality]. A learning journey that went beyond expectations.

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**4. Support Received**

* **Brief**: Describe the type of support a student received during their supported internship.
* **Copy**: Thanks to [Type of Support] from [Support Provider], [Student Name] thrived in [His/Her/Their] supported internship at [Company Name]. [Insert student’s quote talking about support received and why it was good].

Find out more about [name of your local area/LA/council/organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**5. Future Aspirations**

* **Brief**: Share a student's aspirations for the future following their supported internship.
* **Copy**: "After [His/Her/Their] supported internship, [Student Name] is dreaming big. [Future Goals]. [Insert student’s quote talking about their aspirations]. Here's to chasing dreams and making them a reality!

Find out more about [name of your local area/LA/council/organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**6. Internship Value**

* **Brief**: Have a student express in their own words why supported internships are valuable.
* **Copy**: [Student Name] on why supported internships are a game-changer: '[Quote].' Real experiences, real growth!

Find out more about [name of your local area/LA/council/organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**7. Advice for Prospective Interns**

* **Brief**: Share advice from a student for others considering supported internships.
* **Copy**: [Student Name]'s advice to future interns: '[Advice].' Take the first step towards an empowering career journey. Find out more about [name of your local area/LA/council/organisation/LA/council/organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

For employers and parents’ perspectives, adjust these templates accordingly, focusing on their unique viewpoints and experiences with the internship program.

For example, employers can discuss the benefits and learning from hosting interns, while parents can share observations of their child's growth and development through the program.

Ensure that every post is crafted with the intention of motivating, educating, and inspiring your audience to engage with supported internships, fostering an inclusive and supportive community for all involved.

All the following templates can be equally used by LAs, as well as Employers.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PARENTS AND EMPLOYERS’ TEMPLATES ONLY SERVE AS EXAMPLES OF WHAT KIND OF MESSAGE YOU WANT TO SHARE. YOU SHOULD INSTEAD ONLY USE REAL QUOTE AND NEVER MADE-UP CONTENT.**

**DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING TEMPLATE AS SUCH AND USE REAL QUOTES INSTEAD**

**Sharing Parents Perspectives**

**1. Observing Challenges and Growth**

* **Brief**: Share how a parent observed their child face and overcome a challenge during the internship.
* **Copy**: Seeing [Child's Name] overcome [Challenge] during their supported internship was heartening. It renewed our confidence in their abilities and future prospects.

Find out more about [name of your local area / LA / Council / Organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**2. Witnessing Achievements**

* **Brief**: Reflect on a significant achievement your child has made during their internship.
* **Copy**: "As a parent, seeing [Child's Name] achieve [Achievement] during [His/Her/Their] supported internship was a moment of immense pride and a testament to their strength. We look forward to seeing [Him/Her/Them] move forward with their future in [Job’s Field].

Find out more about [name of your local area / LA / Council / Organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**3. Changing Perceptions**

* **Brief**: Describe a misconception you had about supported internships and how witnessing your child's experience changed that.
* **Copy**: I initially thought [Misconception] but seeing [Child's Name] thrive in [His/Her/Their] supported internship showed me [Reality]. What an enlightening journey!

Find out more about [name of your local area / LA / Council / Organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**4. Support Witnessed**

* **Brief**: Talk about the support your child received and how it impacted their internship experience.
* **Copy**: [Child's Name]'s success in [His/Her/Their] supported internship was bolstered by incredible support from [Support Provider/Company Name], [Describe support]. The supported internship proved that with the right environment and support for [Child’s Name] to learn and grow, [He/She/They] can live up to any of [His/Her/Their] aspiration.

Find out more about [name of your local area / LA / Council / Organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**5. Envisioning the Future**

* **Brief**: Share your child's future aspirations post-internship and your hopes for their career path.
* **Copy**: After [Child's Name]'s supported internship, [He/She/They] is now aiming for [Future Goals]. Excited to see where this path leads [Him/Her/Them]!

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**6. Value of Internships**

* **Brief**: Express why you believe supported internships are beneficial, based on your child's experience.
* **Copy**: "Seeing [Child's Name] grow through [His/Her/Their] supported internship, witnessing [Him/Her/Them] [Details about growth gained from SI], I can't emphasise enough its value. A transformative experience for young people.

Find out more about [name of your local area / LA / Council / Organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**7. Advice to Other Parents**

* **Brief**: Offer advice to other parents considering supported internships for their child.
* **Copy**: To parents contemplating a supported internship for their child: '[Your Advice].' It opens doors and builds confidence.

Find out more about [name of your local area / LA / Council / Organisation]’s supported internship programmes [insert link to your supported internship programme webpage] #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**Sharing Employers’ Perspectives**

**1. Addressing Challenges**

* **Brief**: Discuss a challenge an intern faced in your organisation and how it was resolved.
* **Copy**: Hosting [Intern's Name], we encountered [Challenge]. With the funded training and support received, working together with [Interns’ Name], [His/Her/Their] job coach, parents, tutors, we navigated these waters, learning and growing.

Find out more about becoming an Employer Ambassador for Supported Internships, receive funded training to host and support young people in Supported Internships. <https://tinyurl.com/SupportedInternships-Employers> #NationalSupportedInternshipDay #NSID2024

**2. Celebrating Intern Achievements**

* **Brief**: Highlight an achievement of an intern within your organisation.
* **Copy**: "Proud to share [Intern's Name]'s achievement of [Achievement] during their internship with us. Their hard work pays off!”

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**3. Employer Perceptions**

* **Brief**: Share how your initial perception of supported internships changed after hosting an intern.
* **Copy**: We thought [Misconception], but hosting [Intern's Name] taught us [Reality]. Supported internships are truly beneficial for all involved.

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**4. Supporting the Intern**

* **Brief**: Describe the support system your organisation provided to the intern.
* **Copy**: Providing [Type of Support] for [Intern's Name] during their supported internship was a priority. [Intern's Name] taught us as much as [He/She/They] learned with us. [Quote about learnings]. Our team has growth from this experience, and we can’t recommend it enough to other organisations. We are proud to be able to support [Intern’s Name] learning the foundations of [Field] and are looking forward to witnessing [Him/Her/Them] keep on growing.

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**5. Interns and the Future**

* **Brief**: Reflect on how supporting interns aligns with your organisation's future goals.
* **Copy**: Through supporting interns like [Intern's Name], we're investing in the future workforce and our company's vision. [Insert details].

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**6. The Importance of Supported Internships**

* **Brief**: From an employer's perspective, share why supported internships are crucial.
* **Copy**: Supported internships, like [Intern's Name]'s journey with us, highlight the untapped potential in all young people. Essential for building an inclusive future.

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**7. Advice to Other Employers**

* **Brief**: Offer advice to other employers on hosting supported interns.
* **Copy**: Considering a supported internship program? '[Your Advice].' It's rewarding for the intern and enriching for your team.

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