

Project | SEARCH

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Project SEARCH new?

No, Project SEARCH Eastbourne is recruiting has been at Eastbourne Hospital since 2014. The project originally started in Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre, USA, in the mid-1990s. Since then Project SEARCH has successfully expanded to a wide range of public and private sector employers. Project SEARCH is now also running many sites in England and other countries

What is Project SEARCH all about?

Project SEARCH is an employer-led internship model, which has helped young people with learning difficulties and disabilities get and keep paid permanent jobs.

How long will the Project last?

The project will run from September - June .

Will I get any holidays?

Yes, you will get similar holidays to College, so half term and Easter breaks.

How many days a week will I have to work?

We work five days a week; Monday Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

What time do I start and finish each day?

Each day you will need to start at 9.30am and you will finish at 4.30pm.

How will I get to Project SEARCH and home again each day?

It is your responsibility to get to work on time each day. That is the same for everyone in work. If you need any help to plan your journey then please let us know. We may be able to arrange for some travel training to learn new bus routes.

Can I use my Disabled Bus Pass?

You can only use your Bus Pass for free after 9.30am. As you will need to be at work by 9.30am you cannot use it to come to work, but you can use it to get home.

Where in the hospital is Project SEARCH?

The Base Room is in Addison House in the residential area of the Eastbourne District General Hospital.

What course will I be doing?

The course is Project SEARCH you will be a student of East Sussex College Group Eastbourne. You will also gain a Learning, Employability and Progression qualification.

Will I just be in a class room all day?

No. After the first few weeks you will be going out on Work Rotations to work in the hospital in various departments as an Intern.

What is an Intern?

An intern is someone who learns while they are actually working.

What is a Work Rotation?

A Work Rotation is another term for Work Experience. As Project SEARCH started in America we are all using the same terms so everyone knows what we are talking about.

What job will I be doing?

I don't know. We will have lots of Rotations available. We look at the skills that you have and the skills that are needed to do the job, then carefully match you to a Rotation.

How much will I get paid while on Project SEARCH?

You will get valuable experience from the course and then in June when the course finishes we will hope to find you a paid job but you won't get paid whilst on the Project Search.

Will I definitely get a paid job?

There is no guarantee that you will get a paid job. Everyone at Project SEARCH is really keen for you to get paid work and will help and support you to find a paid job.

I am on Job Seekers Allowance. I have been told that if I do Project SEARCH I will lose my benefits, is that true?

For now, you will not be able to claim Job Seekers Allowance as the program is classed as full time vocational course (a traineeship).

Will being on Project SEARCH affect my DLA (Disability Living Allowance)?

Whatever money you get for DLA you will continue to get. As far as we are aware the same is applied for ESA, PIP and Universal Credit.

How much help will I get on Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH has three members of staff who are there to help you. This will be in doing course work in the base room, helping you find Rotations and then helping you in the Rotations.

When you are in a rotation you will have a mentor who will help you to learn the job. The Project SEARCH team are always there if you feel that you need any extra help.

Will I be supervised at all times?

You won't always be supervised but the Project SEARCH Team are on hand to help you. You will be given contact details if you do have a problem.

You are expected to behave in an appropriate manner at all times whilst on Rotation and on your breaks regardless of whether you are supervised or not.

Where will I have my lunch?

During your lunch break you are able to have lunch at the base room or there is a canteen and a café in the hospital. Your breaks will be your free time so it is up to you where you go.

What about my medication?

That is your responsibility. You need to do what you normally do. If you need somewhere private to take medication then please talk to the Project SEARCH team.

What should I do if I am ill and cannot come to work?

You will be given contact numbers to let us know. This is the same for any job.

Will I be allowed to smoke?

There is a designated smoking area where you can go to smoke. It is unlikely that you will have time to go for a cigarette during the day, you may have time during your lunch break.

What do I need to wear?

When you are on a Work Rotation you will wear whatever is appropriate for the work you are doing. Any Personal Protection Equipment needed will be provided.

When you are not in a Work Rotation then you can wear any smart clothes and shoes. Whatever you are doing, it is very important that your clothes are clean and that you have good personal hygiene.

Can I have my mobile phone on?

This will depend on where you are working. Even if you can have your phone on, you should make sure it is on silent and not make or receive personal phone calls during working hours. This is the same as it is in most jobs.

Who is the Project SEARCH team?

Stacey is the Project Co-ordinator and she will be with you when you are at the base room. Hannah and Joe are Job Coaches and they will help you in your Work Rotations.

If I have a problem what will I do?

You can contact the Project Search Team if you have any problems. Whilst in your work rotation your colleagues and mentor will be able to help you.

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