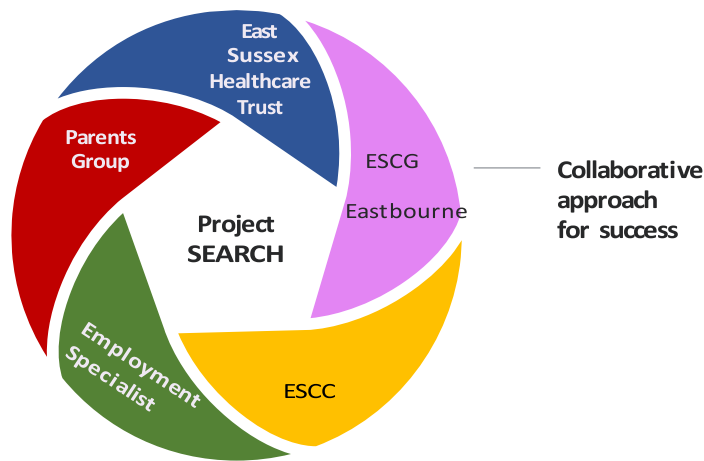


What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a supported employment initiative for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. It started in the USA in 1996 and is now being taken forward in Europe and the UK.

Within the UK, Project SEARCH is essentially a joint project between a local authority, a local college or school and a host employer. One of Project SEARCH's most unique attributes is its emphasis on collaboration.

Project SEARCH is driven by partnerships and a network of tutors, job coaches, job developers and business leaders that play an integral role in executing our goal of obtaining paid employment for individuals with disabilities.



What's involved in the programme?

All interns are unpaid members of staff in the host business and so the first part of the programme is spent fully inducting the interns and completing orientation activities.

After induction, the programme runs Monday to Friday, with breaks during academic holidays.

A Typical Day:

10:45 - 12:45 Work

Interns begin initially with 1-2-1 coaching before the Job Coach progresses to observation and skills development support. Utilisation of 'natural supports' from host business staff provides developmental opportunities. Skills are developed over each rotation to reach competitive paid employment working standards and quality benchmarks.

1:30 - 3:30 Work

These hours increase over the year. For the 3rd rotation interns are expected to work the same hours as their colleagues in preparation for full time employment.

After Work

Our interns like to organise social activities after work too!

9:30 - 10:30 Training session

The curriculum is bespoke and aims to support the acquisition of skills and preparation for getting and keeping a job. Interns will gain a Supported Employment qualification.

12:45 - 1:30 Lunch

Either at the project base room, the employer's canteen or integrated within the department routine.

3:45 - 4:30 Back to base room

'Book-ended' support ensures interns can share their individual experiences through peer support sessions, reflect on and evaluate their experiences, work on an individual career plan and apply for work

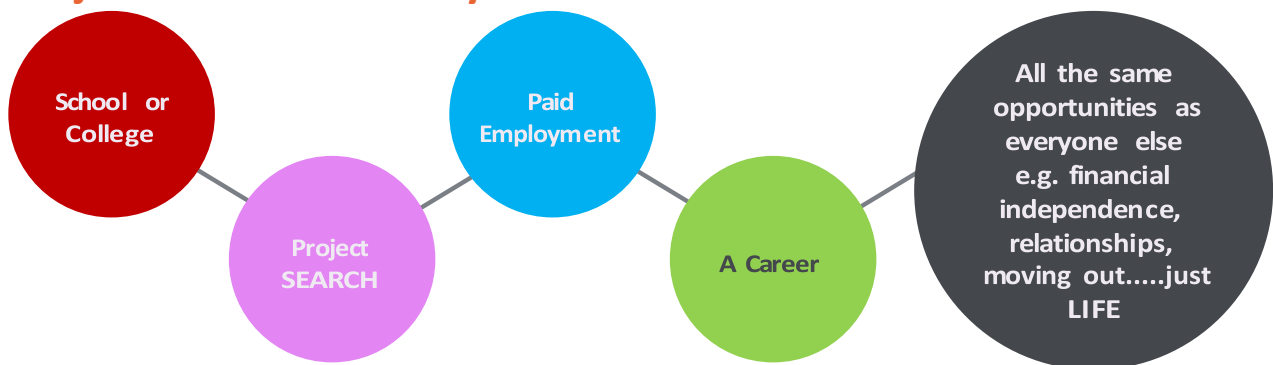
Key info:

- Project SEARCH seeks to work in a collaborative way and immerses the intern within a host employer to enable them to acquire employability and marketable work skills.
- Interns participate in three 10 week rotations to explore a variety of job and career paths from September to June.
- The progression goal is into competitive paid employment.
- There is no obligation on the host employer to provide permanent employment.
- Interns can continue to claim DLA/PIP/ESA/Universal Credit whilst on the programme.

Eligibility Criteria

- Age 18-24
- An Education Healthcare Plan
- Be willing to travel independently
- Want to be in paid employment

The Project SEARCH Journey



Benefits of Project SEARCH

Benefits to the intern:

- Participate in a variety of internships to explore employment aspirations and interests
- Acquire competitive, transferable and marketable job skills
- Gain increased independence, confidence, and self esteem
- Obtain work based individualised instruction, coaching, support and feedback from job coaches and host business managers and buddy/supervisors
- Develop links to adult support agencies and community networks

Benefits to the host business and potential employers:

- Increased work capacity by carefully selected candidates who are ready for work, who match labour needs and improve performance and retention in some high-turnover or hard-to-fill posts
- Departmental opportunities for staff as mentors/buddies to interns
- On site trained and experienced disability employment specialists who can provide disability awareness training, advice on the Disability Discrimination Act and reasonable adjustments
- Help to develop accessible recruitment practices
- Enhanced business profile through increased local, regional, and national recognition

Contacts

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Tel: 07946 335 715

SCAN ME



After graduating from Project SEARCH Interns have been successfully employed in the following businesses and roles....



Waiter

Waitress

Server

Kitchen Operative

Caterer



Housekeeping

PRIMARK®

Sainsbury's

Retail, stores and

MARKS &
SPENCER

warehouse



Health Records Clerk

Post Porter

Bookings Clerk

Clinical Orderly

Porter

Out Patient Reception

Housekeeper

Clinical Coding

Pharmacy Technician

Decontamination
Technician

Hospital Restaurant

