



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM  
SCHOOL

# Year 10 Pupil Work Experience 2020



[uobschool.org.uk](http://uobschool.org.uk)

## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE 2020

Work Experience for Year 10 pupils will take place during Challenge Week in the Summer Term 29 June – 3 July 2020.

Work Experience is a crucial factor in preparing young people for their future, both in terms of acquisition and practice of measurable workplace knowledge, and development of harder to measure, 'soft' skills. Pupils learn about expectations of the workplace; advice about punctuality and professional manners are much more effective when coming from a supervisor than a teacher at school. Pupils will have the chance to work more independently than they will be used to at school, with less direct supervision, but also learn to collaborate in a diverse team with a range of ages and experience.

Placements can also equip pupils with knowledge to draw on when deciding their direction after GCSEs; work experience can help a pupil settle on a career they thought they wanted, or decide what they thought they would enjoy isn't actually for them.

We want all of our pupils to take part in meaningful, useful, work experience, which will help to prepare them for the world of work. We also want to make sure that pupils are safe and supported in their placements, while getting a taste of working independently.

Pupils have two options when deciding on a work experience placement: they can choose to investigate and secure a placement themselves (with your help), or they can ask to be allocated a placement by school.



# Year 10 Work Experience 2020



## PLACEMENTS THROUGH UOB SCHOOL

During Work Experience 2019 over 100 Year 10 pupils were placed by school at the University of Birmingham campus. At the university pupils worked across a huge range of departments including Estates, Engineering, Hospitality, Catering, Accounting and Finance, the Medical and Dental Schools, and Registry. In 2020, in addition to the university, we also hope to work with our corporate partners and local schools to secure placements.

What is important to remember is that the departments and schools on campus are sometimes limited in what they can offer to pupils under 16. In the medical school, for example, pupils placed there might be working in the MDS Finance office with office based work, but with the chance to look around the school, speak to medical students and meet lecturers.

The time spent at the university in whatever capacity, is a valuable experience of a high-level, professional workplace, offering the chance to practice working alongside adults in a somewhat unfamiliar environment. Many pupils attended meetings with their placement leads, learnt to work with data systems, write blogs, produce videos and other resources, and learnt about technical equipment. The activities were varied, and gave pupils an insight into the world of employment, and helped them to develop real-world skills which are hard to teach in a classroom.

Pupils on work experience on campus will be under remote supervision: four members of UoB School staff will be on campus each day during the placements, in pre-determined locations to support pupils throughout the week. Pupils at corporate partners will be visited once during the placement.

If there is a very specific area that your child is very keen to gain experience in, such as car mechanics or veterinary, you may wish to consider helping them to find a self-arranged placement. If this is not possible your child will still be able to complete a meaningful and enjoyable placement arranged by school, where they will gain useful overall work experience, but it will not be in the niche area that they are particularly interested in.



# Placements through UoB School

## SELF-ARRANGED PLACEMENTS

Some pupils will be keen to work in a specific employment area which they are interested in for their future career. In this case, you may wish to help them research and find their own placement.

During last year's work experience, pupils arranged their own placements with a wide variety of employers including the Highways Agency, Birmingham Children's Hospital, and other local organisations. These placements can prove very useful for pupils who already have a clear idea of what pathway they would like to take and would like to spend time learning about a very specific role.

A guide to finding work experience placements can be found on the 'Success at School' website (external site): <https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/69/how-to-find-work-experience>.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or queries about work experience for your child, please contact Ms Lundy on [a.lundy@uobschool.org.uk](mailto:a.lundy@uobschool.org.uk).



# Self-arranged Placements



## KEY DATES

October 2019

Pupil Information Assembly.

November 2019

Pupils to start looking for & arranging self-arranged placements, if relevant.

January 2020

Pupils will be asked to state if they would like to be placed by school, or will arrange their own placement. Pupils asking to be placed by school will indicate their preferences for their placement.

March 2020

Pupil choices 'locked in' - pupils will no longer be able to change between self-arranged placements and UoBS placements.

April 2020

Pupils allocated to placements (if arranged by UoBS). Year 10 will have assembly and PLAD sessions on what to expect on work experience.

May 2020

Pupils to complete 'pen portraits' for their placements; short profiles to familiarise their placement leads with their interests and strengths.

Monday 29 June 2020

Pupils will attend school in business dress and will spend the day preparing for their placement. Pupils arranging their own placement may attend placement or school on Monday 29 June 2020.



# Work Experience Key Dates

## PLACEMENT TESTIMONIALS & STUDENT FEEDBACK

“ I would like to praise the integrity and intuitiveness of Harsh, he came in with a ‘can do’ attitude and ‘I will get out as much as possible’ from this experience. He was sensible and used instructions given to him very informatively, in addition to this he asked very practical questions based upon the work and instructions.”

College of Medical & Dental Sciences

“ Christian was very confident and not afraid to ask questions. He interacted well with our team and asked good questions during his career coaching session with one of our career consultants. He also gave a very good presentation on what he learned during the week.”

Careers In Business

“ I enjoyed my placement, it was really fun learning to look after the children. Sometimes it was difficult as there were a lot of children in the room, but the staff looking after me on placement were very supportive.”

Imani , placed at the Oaks Day Nursery

“ I thought that I might be treated like a child when I was on placement, but we were asked to do meaningful work. We went to meetings, and got to see lecturers talk about projects they are working on, and we were asked to write a press release and plan out a video.”

Alex, placed in External Relations

“ I enjoyed the freedom of work experience and getting to see the real world of work. I had to meet different people and work with lots of different colleagues, so I was really able to work on my interpersonal skills in a work environment.”

Poyel, placed in the College of Life & Environmental Sciences



# Testimonials & Feedback