



PARENT GUIDE TO WORK EXPERIENCE

2024 - 2025



Leicestershire Education Business Company



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INTRODUCTION

Since 1992 Leicestershire Education Business Company (LEBC) has been creating successful links between business and education so that young people can learn more about the world of work.

We offer a range of services aimed at giving young people a focus on work and employability skills. We do this through Work Experience, STEM events, Nuffield Research Programme, School Events and other work related learning activities.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience is such an invaluable part of a student's life and can play a significant role in shaping a student's future decisions. The benefits of work experience include:

First-hand experience of employment - an understanding of the routines and disciplines of professional practice

Raised awareness of how their curriculum subjects, skills, interests and attitudes relate to the world of work

A reference as evidence which will help in the future, as well as possible apprenticeship or part time work opportunities

Of the previous students surveyed we have found that:

85% of students gained confidence

82% improved their communication skills

82% stated that their team working skills were stronger after work experience

92% felt more positive about the world of work

86% said that they were motivated to work harder in school

75% were clearer about what they wanted to do in their future education / career

SELF-PLACEMENTS

Some sectors are self-placement only including dance, media, performing arts, uniformed services and NHS.

Information is available in the Student Directory about availability of placements and sectors where self-placements are advised. Please ask your work experience co-ordinator in school for a copy.

Self-Placement forms (as seen below) must be in as close to the application form deadline as possible. As soon as we get the application forms in we will start looking for a placement.

If you are sure that a self-placement will come through but you are unable to get it completed for the deadline then please make a note of this on the application form.

Do you have Employers Liability Insurance? YES NO Public Liability Insurance? YES NO

ALL DETAILS ARE TO BE COMPLETED

Student Name School/College:

Placement Dates:

Company Name

Address

..... Post Code

Telephone Number Email

Company Contact Position

Work Experience Role (e.g. Office Assistant)

APPLICATION FORM

Section 1:

Your young person will be given the choice of many different sectors to choose from. We ask that when they are completing their work experience application form that they pick **2 or 3 options from section one** and a **maximum of 1 option from section two**.

Section 2:

Section 2 contains our most in demand placements. These placements have also been largely affected by hybrid working. We strongly suggest that if they are interested in any of these sector's that they try and source a self - placement first.

WORK EXPERIENCE PREFERENCES

* **SPORT AND LEISURE:** Leisure Centres may require you to complete a swim test. If you cannot swim 25m please let us know on the back page

**** SECTION 2: These sectors are in high demand with low availability. A self-placement is recommended.**

Please choose **3 sectors** from the sections below. **You can have a maximum of 1 choice in section 2.**

Section 1

<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Administration, Finance & Legal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering & Manufacturing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental & Land-Based Studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training and Childcare

<input type="checkbox"/>	Hair and Beauty
<input type="checkbox"/>	* Sport, Active Leisure & Tourism
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retail Business
<input type="checkbox"/>	Catering & Hospitality

**Section 2

<input type="checkbox"/>	Information Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction & the Built Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creative and Media
<input type="checkbox"/>	Health and Care

Please provide the preferred job role (from the student directory) for all sectors:

Sector 1 Job Role:.....

Sector 2 Job Role:.....

Sector 3 Job Role:.....

If you chose **TEACHING ASSISTANT** then please tell us what primary school you attended:

.....

This guide should help you to understand LEBC's role in the work experience process and answer any questions that you may have. Any further queries should be directed to the work experience co-ordinator within school/college.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLACEMENT

Students will be given an application form or login details. These will usually be completed in school time using our Student Directory during a lesson but they will have to bring this home or show you to be signed and approved by you. Please ensure that you read the application form fully and that you are happy with the choices and travel areas.

The more travel areas a student puts on their form the more chance they have of getting a placement within their first or second preference. Please also make sure that any medical conditions, special educational needs or any other important factors are included on the form. This will enable LEBC to find the most suitable placement to meet the needs of the student.

DEADLINES

LEBC have strict deadlines for the return of application forms. We work with many different schools meaning competition for placements is high. To ensure that all students have a fair and equal chance to access all of our placements we ask for all applications to be in for the same date.

THE MATCHING PROCESS

LEBC have an experienced team of co-ordinators working with a database of employers to place students on work experience. We take into account student's preferences, travel areas and any known factors about the student to ensure the placement is the 'best fit'.

This part of the process starts as soon as the application forms are received. Sometimes employers may ask for more information about the student in the form of a CV or a covering letter. If this is the case we will liaise with the work experience co-ordinator in school to get this information to the employer.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Every employer that takes a student on work experience (including self-placements) is visited by one of our Employer Assessors for a health, safety and welfare check. They will also put together with the employer a job description and risk assessment for the placement. The level of risk of the placement is determined at the visit and a revisit schedule put into place accordingly. If a placement is deemed to be high risk they will be visited every year, lower risk placements are visited less often with the lowest risk placements visited every three years.

As part of the visit our Assessor needs to see certain policies are in place and also obtain a copy of the Employers Liability Insurance Certificate (ELI). This is to ensure that students are covered by insurance while they are out on placement. If we do not receive the ELI or the visiting Assessor is not satisfied with the conditions of the placement we will not be able to approve the placement.

PAPERWORK

LEBC sends the work experience paperwork to the school co-ordinator once the majority of students have a confirmed placement, normally 6 weeks before the placement. On occasions this can be delayed, for example if our Assessor has been unable to complete the health and safety visit, or there is some outstanding actions for the employer to complete. Do not panic if paperwork doesn't come through at the first deadline date. We will be liaising closely with the school work experience co-ordinator, please speak to them for any updates.

Students will get two documents. The first one is theirs to keep and it is called the "Learner Cover Letter". This document gives all of the information that you will need to know about the work experience placement including the address, contact name and telephone number.

The second document is the "Work Experience Agreement". This is the contract for the placement and needs signing by employer, student and a parent/carer. This needs returning to school fully completed before the placement start date. It also gives a description of the job, any requirements e.g. good communication skills, what they should wear, what hours they will be working and the breaks that they will get. The risk assessment for the placement is also on the document. Please take the time to read through and familiarise yourself with this.



AVAILABLE PLACEMENTS

On some occasions LEBC may be unable to match a student to their first or second choice of work experience placement. Usually this would be because there was such a high demand for the sector that there simply were not enough employers in the local areas to take all of the students. At this point students will be offered an “available placement”.

Available placements are good quality placements with supportive employers who are able to accommodate students for the dates set by the school / college. It may be that these match their choices but falls outside of their travel areas. Alternatively it could be that they are in different sectors to a student’s first / second choice but are within their travel areas

Some of the most successful placements and outcomes come from available placements. Students can still gain skills and work experience through an available placement and may also find a different career path to follow or part time work whilst studying. Please support your young person to choose and available placement if they need to.



INTERVIEWS

All students must make contact with their employer as soon as possible once they have received their paperwork, to arrange their pre-placement interview. This also includes students that have a self-placement. Most employers like to meet the students face to face before they officially confirm the placement and all placements are provisional subject to a successful interview.

Each interview is very different, this is completely down to the employer so can vary from student to student. Usually it will be an informal chat to ensure that the student is suitable for a placement with them, that they are keen and to settle any nerves and confirm details for the first day. Please support your young person to make the phone call but **do not** do it for them. Students should be making the initial contact and attending the interview by themselves. At interview the employer will make the risk assessment specific to the student and sign the agreement, which must be returned to school.



PLACEMENT

The majority of work experience placements run smoothly. If there are any issues regarding the placement including queries over start / finishing times or problems within the placement then please contact the work experience co-ordinator within school. Any accidents / incidents must be reported as soon as possible to LEBC via your school work experience co-ordinator. During the placement a member of staff from the school may either call to monitor the placement or visit the student on placement.

At the end of the placement the employer should complete an "Employer Report" reviewing students timekeeping, teamwork, appropriate behaviour etc. It also has a box for general comments. Some employers also complete an official reference for students if they feel that have done particularly well.

Following the placement students may be debriefed in school and ideally will complete the online evaluation as a chance to reflect on the placement and give their valuable feedback.

QUERIES

We hope that this guide has answered any questions that you may have about the work experience process. We recommend that any outstanding queries be directed to the Work Experience Co-ordinator in school who will be able to speak to a designated point of contact here at LEBC should this be needed.

WEBSITES WITH CAREER INFORMATION & OPPORTUNITIES

www.leics-ebc.org.uk

www.startprofile.com

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

www.gothinkbig.co.uk

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk



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