

Supported Internships

One option for Pathways students following the end of their time in college is to take part in a supported internship. Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24 with a statement of SEN, or an Education, Health and Care plan to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace. Supported internships are unpaid, and last for a minimum of six months. Wherever possible, they support the young person to move into paid employment at the end of the programme. Alongside their time at the employer, young people complete a personalised study programme which includes the chance to study for relevant substantial qualifications, if appropriate, and English and maths.

For many Pathways students a supported internship is the best option when they leave college; students whose outcomes are employment and who are ready for work are ideally suited to this programme. Interns in the Pathways Department have excellent opportunities to access external and internal work placements. Our current supported interns have gained placements with various employers including UA92 and Trafford Council. These internships offer fantastic opportunities for students to work with a variety of employers so they can experience working life in different environments. This helps them decide what work environment they are best suited to.



Running for one academic year, the programme will develop the interns' confidence, communication skills and social skills. These skills will give the interns a greater chance of securing paid employment. This is the ultimate goal of the programme.

The Third Year Supported Internship Programme is built on a three-way partnership between the Pathways department, United Response, and the host employer.



Each intern receives a support plan tailored to their needs. Their skills are matched to job roles within the employer's organisation, for example, clerical, catering or premises. Interns undertake a rotation of three ten-week work placements giving them experience in a variety of jobs.

The Pathways Supported Internship Programme steers the third-year intern to success by working alongside United Response and the host employer, and by feeding into the Pathways and Loreto College ethos. In this way our interns develop into confident, independent young adults who positively contribute to the community through work and education.

The intern will attend their work placement five days a week. They will also be assisted with a support plan tailored to their needs and their skills are matched to job roles within the employer's organisation. The programme allows the intern to try different jobs in real work places and discover what they are best at.

The Pathways Supported Internship Programme allows businesses to be part of a scheme that gives local young people with disabilities the chance to showcase their talent.



The host employer is able to promote equality and diversity in a department of their business, as well as company-wide. Additionally, the programme gives companies practical learning and awareness of disabilities and the myths and stigma attached to them. The employer will gain access to specialised training, support and advice from the staff in the Pathways Department and United Response.

The internship greatly improves the intern's employment prospects and provides an excellent opportunity to gain paid employment. The employability skills and real work experience will further boost the intern's CV.

Take a look at what some of our current supported interns are up to at the moment:

UA92 Interns

Maysoun, Sachin and Nazeemah are situated at the UA92 campus in Trafford and have made excellent progress in both their independence and employability skills. UA92 have tailored aspects of the intern's roles to suit their individual strengths and interests; for example, Maysoun is keen to pursue her skills in photography with the aid of UA92's excellent facilities, and Sachin has already arranged meetings and talks with various members from the business community in relation to his interest in finance and accounting. This includes businesses such as KPMG and their in-house finance team. Nazeemah has utilised her interest in art and writing to create visual displays for the university.

All three of the interns placed in UA92 have had, and continue to have, opportunities to practice job applications, filling in forms, answering general queries and handling phone calls and communications. They also regularly work with other members of UA92 to produce work for projects and events, such as working with the Welfare Officer for World Kindness Day.



Sale Cemetery & Libraries

Rahat, Fatima and Michael intern on behalf of Trafford Council, with Rahat in Sale Library, Fatima in Stretford Library, and Michael at Sale Cemetery. All three work closely with both colleagues and the wider public. Fatima and Rahat have become well-practiced in using various software and systems in the library as well as utilising their creative skills to produce visual displays. Michael has received numerous comments of praise from cemetery visitors who have appreciated the time he takes to speak with mourners and the great listening skills he displays when in conversation with them. All three interns have become hugely important and valuable to the employers they have been working with.

