Work Experience

Doctor, software developer, mechanic, hairdresser – what job do you want to do in the future? The world of work is often confusing and it isn’t easy to choose a career. Work experience can help you with these difficult decisions.

Work experience is an opportunity for you to learn about different careers. You go to a workplace, see how people work, ask questions and sometimes do small parts of the job. It usually lasts one or two weeks and takes place from 1st March to 30th April.

The work is usually not paid, but the employer often pays for travel expenses and meals. All students in Year 10 must do work experience. For more information, read these reports by students who did their work experience last year.
I did my work experience at a big garden centre near my home. The first day I was very nervous. My supervisor gave me a tour of the centre and explained all the rules. I had a lot to do at the garden centre. I watered the plants and I helped the customers. When they bought plants, I carried them to their cars. They sometimes gave me a tip!

My experience at the garden centre was very useful. When I finish school, I want to be a garden designer. I think it’s the perfect career for me because I love gardening, I’m artistic, creative and enthusiastic and I don’t mind working hard outside in all types of weather. I’m going to do A-level exams in Art, Geography and Environmental Sciences and then I’m going to do a course in Garden Design at Kingston University in London.

Scott Rankin, 15
My work experience was at a large pharmacy and health and beauty store. It was a good opportunity for me because I want to have a career in medicine. There were four different sections in the shop – pharmacy, make-up, fragrances and toiletries, and I worked in all of them. I put the products on the shelves, checked prices and tidied the shop. When I finished my work experience, my supervisor gave me a ‘thank you’ card and a voucher for the store.

I didn’t learn a lot about medicine from my work experience, but it helped me with my self-confidence and communication skills. I’m going to do Chemistry, Biology and Maths for my A-level exams and then I’m going to study Medicine or Pharmacy at the University of Nottingham.

Heather Watson, 16