

Work Experience Guidance:

- Minimum 50 hours **paid or voluntary** work experience prior to interview with a supporting reference which confirms your hours worked and your ability to support others.
- Work experience **must** involve direct support to others – this can be supporting children and/or adults and can be with individuals or groups. It can include roles with physical, emotional or behavioural support and can also include roles involving advice giving (e.g. Citizen’s Advice).
- Your hours can be a mix of different experiences in different organisations or with one specific organisation and can include a variety of different tasks, as long as they involve direct support (e.g. answering calls, greeting people, setting up and running activities, providing care, visiting people in their homes etc).
- Up to 20 hours of your 50 work experience hours **can** include provision of care for a vulnerable friend or family member, but the rest of your hours must be completed in an organisation which can provide a reference which evidences your ability to work within an organisational framework, meet agreed expectations and work to policies and procedures.

Examples of work experience that students have engage in prior to interview (this is a broad overview, please contact us if you feel you would like to discuss the relevance of your work experience):

Teaching

Social work

Involvement with after school/holiday clubs and activities (e.g. scouts, beavers, young carers etc) or any voluntary groups which support others.

Student support and extra-curricular activities within schools (e.g. well-being activities, student mentoring, Teaching Assistant).

Nursing and care work, in care homes, hospitals and private homes (e.g. working with older adults and adults with learning disabilities).

Advisory and mentoring services (e.g. Citizen’s Advice, any service which includes a coaching or mentoring role).

Parental and early years support activities (e.g. helping in a mum’s and toddlers group, working in a nursery, working with pre and ante-natal services etc).

Charities providing mental wellbeing activities (e.g. befriending services, Mind, NAS, Barnardos, Samaritans, St. David’s hospice and bereavement services).

Faith based support groups and activities which involve supporting others (e.g. Sunday school)

Activities involving bodily care (e.g. sports massages, beautician for people with disfigurement and self-image issues, hairdresser supporting people with cancer and other health issues, foot care specialist etc).

Work experience for organisations that work with specific issues:

Charities supporting homeless people within the community (e.g. Wallich)

Substance misuse support (e.g. Kaleidoscope, Salvation Army)

Domestic violence support (e.g. Womens' Aid, Llamau)

Refugee support (e.g. Bawso, CCAWS).

We do not accept work experience that involves brief interactions with others, or working relationships that do not involve supporting others (e.g. retail work, human resources, receptionists, administrative work, hospital porters, accounting etc).