

Supported Internships: Helping Young People Move Confidently into Employment

[Audio: Upbeat music plays during clip.]

[Video Clip: James and Kayleigh chatting and walking beside a main road.]

[James Merrington] So, my name's James Merrington and I'm an In-Work Support and Training Officer for DurhamEnable.

The work that we do is, it's massively important. The Supported Internship, it's not work experience, it's a pathway into employment, particularly those with disabilities, neurodiversity, because it's such an unknown space and for a lot of people we support in the supported internship, they're coming from sort of SEND provisions, you know, so they've very supportive environments and then they come to the end of that education and they're expected to just go out and find it on their own, by themselves.

[Kayleigh Askew] My role at Durham County Council is I am a Learning and Development Petitioner Apprentice.

[Video Clips: Shots of Kayleigh working on a laptop computer.]

[Kayleigh Askew] I was supported by DurhamEnable because I was on the Supported Internship programme, which means that I was encouraged to look for job opportunities whenever possible and I applied for four different apprenticeship roles and I achieved interviews of all of them.

And before the interviews I was able to list out reasonable adjustments that I might have, that I might need for my interviews and I sent them all off to the interviewers and they all accepted them, they all used them.

[Video Clip: James, Kayleigh, and Phil, sitting around a table in an office chatting and smiling.]

[Kayleigh Askew] When I've done the college part of my apprenticeship, they've explained what I need to do quite well and also with my work tasks in general, I like how you've, like every time you verbally explain something to me, you always send a written copy of it via email or on paper, which is very good for me as I don't really process verbal information that well.

[James Merrington] The supported internship is fantastic for someone like Kayleigh or someone who's neurodiverse or just needs that little helping hand moving into paid employment.

Ultimately though, it's down to the individual as well, you know, Kayleigh from the very start was proactive, she showed great initiative, she really wanted to engage in the programme, so as much as the support is fantastic, it's down to the young person as well, it's down to the intern to make the most of it and if they do that, then yeah, we tend to see some really good outcomes.

[Kayleigh Askew] I would recommend DurhamEnable to other people because, whatever your disabilities are, if you want a job then they'll help you like achieve that.

[Text: DurhamLearn logo. If you want more information on Supported Internships please contact DurhamLearn. Website: durhamlearncourses.org, Email: durhamlearn@durhamgov.uk, Tel: DurhamLearn on 03000 266 115.]

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