

Project SEARCH at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

 Queensmill College, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a one year transition to work supported internship program for young people with autism and learning disability or both. Originating at Cincinnati Hospital, USA, this highly effective approach to developing on-the-job workplace competence has been adopted in the UK for several years with great success.

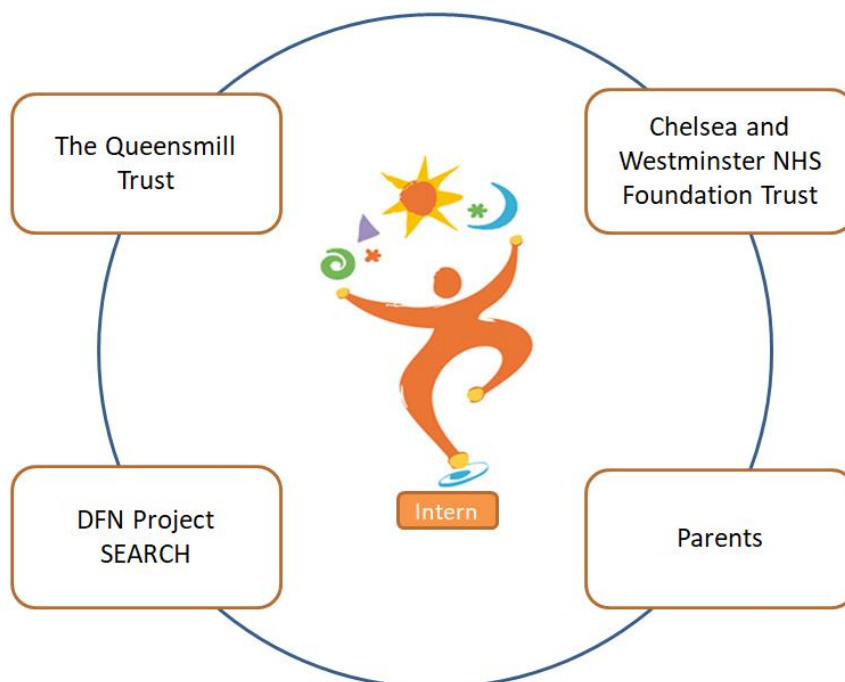
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Trust and The Queensmill Trust have partnered together to give young people with autism and learning difficulties an opportunity to develop their skills within a real work environment as well as work towards an ASDAN award in employability.

Our programme is based in one hospital at two different sites: **Chelsea and Westminster Hospital** site in Chelsea and, **West Middlesex University Hospital** site in Isleworth, London.

We apply a specialist, autism-friendly approach to support our interns on-site. However, we are open to working with young people with other special educational needs, and we can accommodate each individual on the programme suitably.

Also, we aim to give an opportunity to young people who might find it difficult in other supported internships, but we will consider all applications.

Organisations involved in this supported internship:



What does the curriculum cover?

During the first 2-3 first weeks of the Autumn term, the interns will complete the NHS hospital induction training.

Then, the week will be divided into two different parts:

Theory work: includes lessons following Queensmill College – Employability Skills curriculum (below) and working towards achieving an ASDAN Award in Employability.

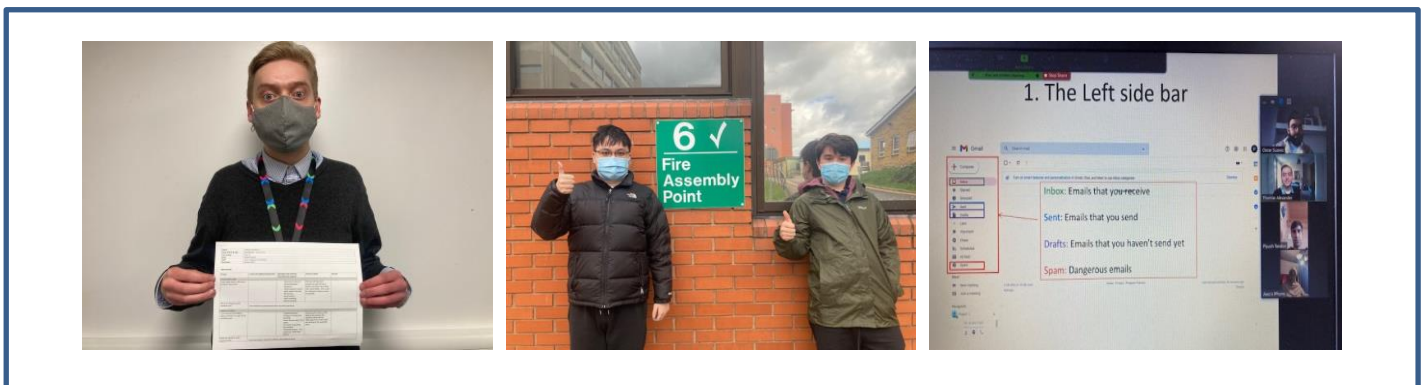
Practical work: includes 3 internships in 3 different departments across the hospital. This will provide varied work experiences and help develop relevant employability skills.

The SCERTS model and other autism-specific strategies are also followed to help the interns manage their autism and ease anxiety in the workplace.

Six key areas are covered to prepare the interns for the world of work:

Queensmill College - Employability Skills Curriculum

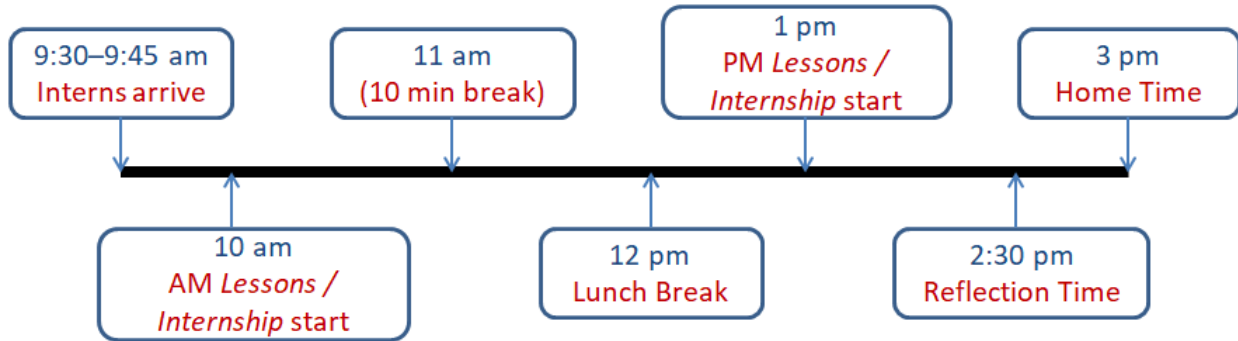
<p style="text-align: center;">Employability Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customer service ▪ Teamwork ▪ Attendance and timekeeping ▪ Hygiene and grooming ▪ Workplace behaviour 	<p style="text-align: center;">Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workplace hazards ▪ Reading signs and symbols ▪ Protective equipment and clothing ▪ Tidy workspaces ▪ Fire safety ▪ Handwashing/infection control ▪ Food hygiene ▪ Safe lifting and handling ▪ Covid19 safety 	<p style="text-align: center;">Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy eating and exercise ▪ Leisure/recreational activities ▪ Body language ▪ Social skills ▪ Mental health ▪ SoSafe and managing relationships
<p style="text-align: center;">ICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic computer skills ▪ Sending and receiving emails ▪ Taking part in videocalls ▪ Online safety ▪ Giving a presentation ▪ Social media awareness ▪ Appropriate use of personal electronics in the workplace ▪ Using the internet as a research tool 	<p style="text-align: center;">Financial Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bank accounts ▪ Salary and wages ▪ Personal budget ▪ Financial management skills 	<p style="text-align: center;">Finding Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating and maintaining a CV ▪ Interview skills and practice ▪ Appropriate dress for interviews ▪ Job applications and searching for work ▪ References



What does a typical day at Project Search look like?

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital:

For the academic year 22/23, interns will complete two days of lessons at the Harbour Yard Building (where the Baseroom is located) and three days of work at the hospital. The timeline of the day will look like this, in any case:

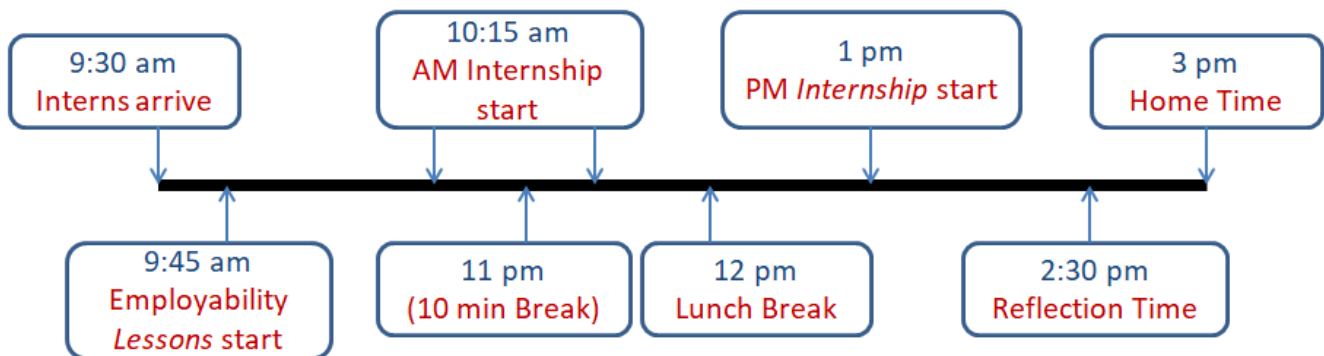


West Middlesex University Hospital:

At the West Middlesex site, the timetable will depend on the department's availability.

Suppose departments offer up to 3 days of internship a week. In that case, we will offer either a similar option to the Chelsea site, including 2 days of Baseroom lesson and 3 days of work/internship at the departments.

If Covid19 measures (and variants) allow departments to offer 5 days of work, we will offer a 30 min lesson each day before work. So the timeline would look like this in this case:



If possible, interns are encouraged to travel independently to the hospital. We practice valuable life skills daily as interns are responsible for paying for or bringing their lunches, changing into their uniforms, and being punctual for their shift.

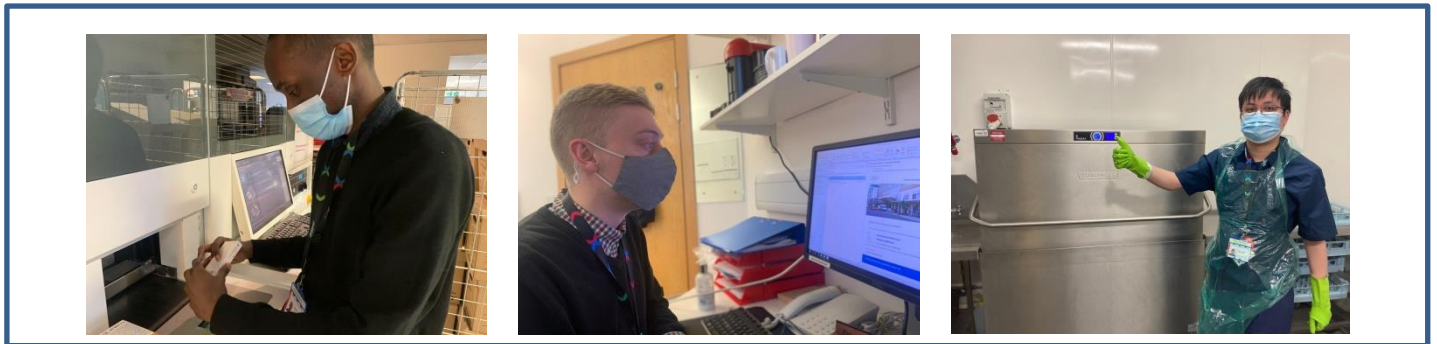
What types of internships are available?

Internships on offer can change over the year as we continuously pursue opening new departments that offer new skills for our intesns. Also, some internships may decide to take a break from working with us.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital:

We currently have internships on offer in the following areas:

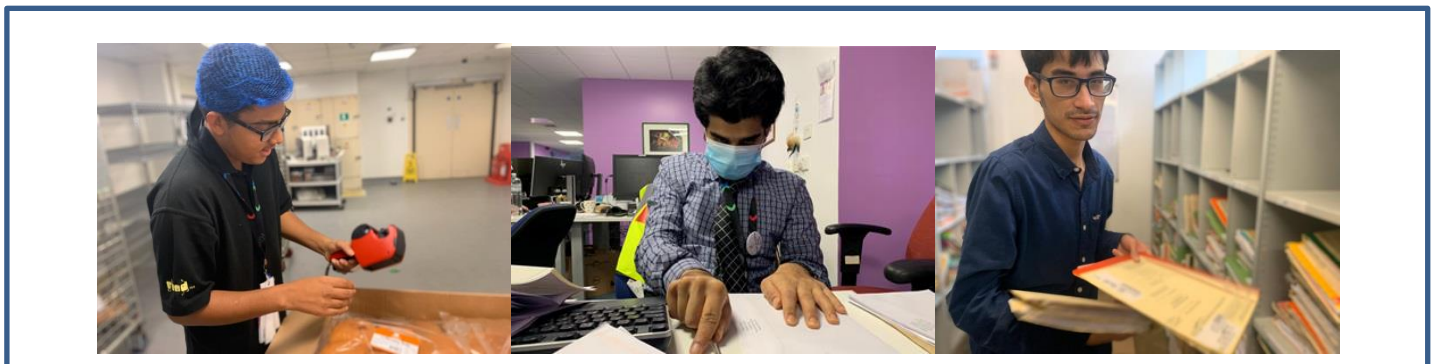
▪ AEC	▪ Pharmacy	▪ Kitchen
▪ Linen	▪ Catering Stores	▪ Ward Host
▪ Costa	▪ R&D	▪ Fracture Clinic Main Ward
▪ Macmillan	▪ Harbour Yard	▪ Planned Care



West Middlesex University Hospital:

We currently have internships on offer in the following areas:

▪ Admin/Receptionist	▪ Bouygues	▪ Catering Stores
▪ Finance	▪ Kitchen	▪ Procurement
▪ Marks & Spencers	▪ Costa Coffee	▪ Ward Host
▪ Recycling	▪ Mulberry Centre	▪ Education Centre



[What are the eligibility criteria?](#)

In order to be eligible for the Project Search programme Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, the following must be met:

- A desire to work with the aim of employment
- An Education Healthcare Plan
- Ages 18-24
- Parental approval

While we enthusiastically encourage applications from young people on the autism spectrum, our applications are open to all young people with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan.

[How to apply:](#)

The application process for the September 2022 – July 2023 year will begin in January 2022.

An application may be requested by emailing projectsearch@queensmill.lbhf.sch.uk.

Once the application is received, applicants will be shortlisted and called in for a skills assessment and interview.

For further information, please contact:

Oscar Suarez (Project SEARCH Coordinator – Queensmill College)

projectsearch@queensmill.lbhf.sch.uk

oscar.suarez@queensmill.lbhf.sch.uk

Rachel Thompson (Head of Service – Queensmill College)

rachel.thompson@thequeensmilltrust.com

Kathryn Mangold (Business liaison – Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust)

kathryn.mangold@nhs.net

