

DFN PROJECT SEARCH



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE

Rachel Thompson

Hi everyone,

This has been our 6th year of the Queensmill DFN Project Search internship programme partnered with the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

I'm pleased to report that we have had an excellent year which included a very successful Ofsted inspection: <https://rb.gy/ltorl0>.

The interns have worked hard to attain their ASDAN Employability and CPD qualifications and have experienced a variety of work placements onsite in the hospitals. We have opened up new departments within the hospitals for our interns to try different skills and ways of working which have been very successful. Overall, we now have over 17 young people from our programme working in paid jobs or volunteering within the hospital Trust, and we are hopeful that we will be able to confirm paid employment for further interns this year. One intern on the programme this year has already gone into paid work and we have plans in place to support other interns for whom it may take a little longer. It is a real testament to the joint project and connected work of all the NHS and Queensmill staff and the interns that these young people are going into work and staying in work over the years. We have ex-interns who have remained in work since 2019 and 2020!

The recent Buckland review of Autism Employment indicates that only 3 in 10 working age autistic people are in employment and experience a wide range of barriers to work and to maintaining long term employment. It remains our quest to remove as many of these barriers that we can for our interns and support them in to paid work.

Congratulations to all the interns for this year, and thank you to all the families and carers for your priceless support. I hope you will join us at the Graduation Celebration this year!

Looking forward to seeing you there and celebrating these achievements together!



MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS LIAISON

Kathryn Mangold

"Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is very proud to continue providing a DFN Project SEARCH programme together with The Queensmill Trust.

For the last 6 years we have worked closely together with hospital staff and our contractors to train over 50 young people. Over 17 interns are now working in paid or voluntary roles in different departments including Pharmacy, the Sexual Health Centre, Finance and with ISS.

In addition this year we are thrilled to announce a substantial achievement in our DFN Project SEARCH programme working together with the Trust apprenticeship team. The Sexual Health Department (St Stephens) have successfully set aside annual departmental funding to introduce Chelsea and Westminster's' Hospital NHS Trust's first Supported Apprenticeship for individuals with Neurodiversity or Learning Disabilities.

I would like to particularly thank all of the hospital Trust and ISS mentors and department managers for continuing to support our programme this year.

None of this would have been possible without our Project Search team working flexibly and tirelessly across both hospital site and at Harbour Yard to achieve such positive outcomes for our interns this year.

Thank you all"



**Thank You
NHS**

Calling all NHS departments!

Are you keen to team up with DFN Project SEARCH/Queensmill and open doors for our interns?

We would appreciate your help in providing internships that could lead to paid contracts, helping these talented individuals to live a more independent life. Reach out to our Job Developer, Josh, at **joshua.hodgson@thequeensmilltrust.com** to learn more.

CAREERS EVENTS



Queensmill College

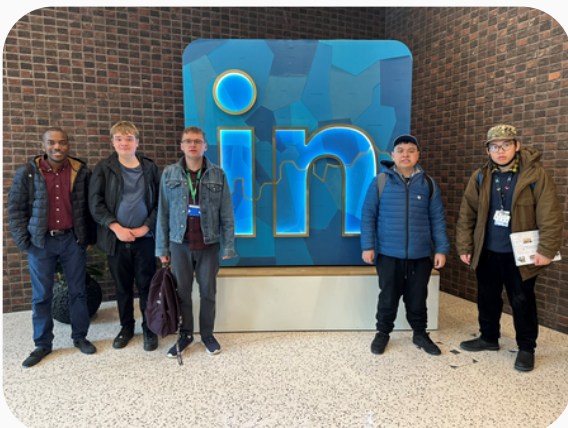


“Our Journey to Employment”

During the first term, our interns had the opportunity to visit Queensmill School, where they delivered an inspiring presentation to younger peers, sharing their personal journeys to employment. It was a heartwarming and motivational experience, demonstrating to the younger generation that the path to meaningful employment is indeed achievable.

“TfL Apprenticeships”

During the second term, our interns had the opportunity to participate in the TfL Apprenticeship Fair held at Kensington Town Hall. Engaging with various apprenticeship providers, they explored alternative pathways to employment beyond supported internships. It was an enlightening experience, broadening their perspectives on diverse career avenues.



“LinkedIn Headquarters”

In the third term, our interns had the incredible opportunity to visit the LinkedIn Headquarters. Here, they took part in an engaging session to improve their understanding of this professional platform. They updated their profiles and listened to the stories of various individuals whose careers have benefited from using this app.

TEACHER VOICE

Oscar Suarez

“

We continue our commitment to support interns with learning disabilities and/or autism in their journey towards employment. This year, our efforts have been met with outstanding success, as reflected in our Ofsted ratings across two distinct areas. Additionally, our recent Natspec audit results have reinforced our dedication to excellence.

Through extensive staff training initiatives, we've invested significantly in ensuring top-tier education quality, aimed at enhancing the performance of our interns and smoothing the way for future employment opportunities.”



JOB DEVELOPER VOICE

Josh Hodgson

“

This academic year has seen some truly fantastic internships, showcasing the dedication and talent within our departments and teams. From Dermatology at West Mid to Chelsea Football Club - Hotels, and back to ISS at Chelsea, we have continually expanded our range of opportunities, benefiting from a remarkable pool of talent.

Excitingly, we will be collaborating with HATS at the Chelsea site and opening a new lab within the Sexual Health department at CW.

These developments promise to further enhance the learning experiences and professional growth of our interns.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to create and expand these incredible opportunities!”



WE ARE RECRUITING OUR NEXT COHORT

You can find more information about our programme on:

www.queensmill-college.co.uk

If you know of anyone who might be interested, we kindly ask you to help us spread the word. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at:

oscar.suarezmilian@thequeensmilltrust.com



JOB COACHES

Todd, Pablo & Dylan



Kiah, Darshini & Habiba



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Another fantastic year of support from our job coaches, who have gone above and beyond to provide tailored assistance, boosting our interns' chances of securing employment.

Our coaches have undergone a range of training, including:

- *Systematic Instruction*
- *Understanding Neurodiversity and Learning Disabilities*
- *Safeguarding*
- *Preventing Radicalisation*
- *eSafety*
- *Zones of Regulation*
- *Behaviour Management*

Their expertise and dedication have been instrumental in guiding our interns towards successful careers. A huge thank you to our exceptional team of job coaches for their invaluable contributions.

DEPARTMENT CASE STUDY

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



The worker: DK

I've been working in the Learning & Organisational Development department for over two years, since completing the Project SEARCH program. I work four days a week, supporting my team with data entry and payroll numbers. I feel well supported, and my manager and colleagues create a positive and happy work environment for me. Since joining the department, I have acquired new skills and can now work independently.

Over the past two years, DK has become an invaluable member of our team after joining us from the Project SEARCH program.

He works as a Learning & OD assistant and provides crucial support with data entry and payroll numbers. We have noticed that he is extremely efficient and highly focused on his tasks. He has shown remarkable growth and independence, acquiring new skills and taking on responsibilities with confidence. His positive attitude and dedication greatly contribute to the team's success and create a pleasant work environment for everyone. We are fortunate to have such a committed and capable team member.



The manager: DL



The coworker: GP

I've been working with DK for the past two years and it's been great. Since he joined us, he has really improved our work environment, making it more welcoming and fun. DK's positive attitude and friendly nature make him very easy to work with. He fits right in with the team and handles tasks efficiently. His attention to detail and ability to work independently are impressive. Thanks to DK, our team is not only more productive, but also a lot more enjoyable to work with. We're lucky to have him around.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The Queensmill Trust partnered with Inclusive Working to conduct a trial of their resources, which included Employability Classroom Activities, Learners' Handbooks, and the CPD eLearnings.

The IW CDP Certificates have allowed current and previous interns to stay in employed posts and ensure that managers across all organisations are confident in their ability to follow workplace safety rules.



CM

Former Intern - Current ISS employee / Volunteer

“The CPD training from Inclusive Working help me to increase the responsibilities of my role as a Porter at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital.

The reasonable adjustments form, also helped me to share the areas I need more support with my manager.”

NEW PARTNERSHIPS



Additionally, Queensmill College has forged a partnership with Chelsea FC - Copthorne & Millennium Hotel to enhance the working experience opportunities for our interns, particularly those interested in pursuing careers in the hospitality industry.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mark and his team for their unwavering commitment and passion in providing exceptional support. Their dedication is evident in their completion of Neurodiversity & Learning Disabilities training, as well as Job Coach training.

Moving forward, we are excited to further develop this partnership and serve as a shining example to other hotels. Together, we aim to showcase that individuals with learning disabilities and/or neurodivergent conditions can thrive and contribute meaningfully in the hospitality sector.



Mark Gregory-White
General Manager

“

We're a richer team for the partnership we enjoy with Queensmill College. It's a privilege to be a small part of something that translates and radiates the essence of hospitality in such a positive way.”

SUCCESSFUL STORIES

from our current interns



A has successfully completed three internships, showcasing his versatility and dedication to gaining valuable experience. During his time at the Child Development Service, he improved his office skills.

Currently, he is further enhancing his organisational and physical skills through an internship at Catering Stores. Additionally, he is gaining valuable insights and experience in the Dermatology department.

J has excelled in every aspect of his internships, demonstrating remarkable progress and initiative. Beginning as a Recycling Champion, he quickly transitioned to the role of Hospital Inspector at the West Middlesex site.

Currently, he is providing invaluable support to Equans, ensuring the grounds are kept impeccably clean. With each role, J is steadily increasing his levels of independence, showcasing his determination and capability to thrive in diverse environments



J joined our program at a young age last year, and we're thrilled to have extended his participation for another year. During this time, he has completed three internships, including Accounts Payable, the Sexual Health Lab, and Dermatology.

This wide range of experiences reflects our commitment to providing varied and enriching opportunities for our interns, allowing them to explore different fields and develop valuable skills.

SPECIAL STORY



B has completed internships at both Chelsea and West Middlesex sites. He experienced a variety of departments, allowing him to develop different roles and skills. What makes his story special is that he took on the challenge of being the first-ever intern to complete an internship at Chelsea FC - Copthorne & Millennium hotel.

B assumed the responsibility of providing a good first impression for this department and demonstrated that our interns can excel in these environments with adequate support. Well done, B, for doing an incredible job and for all the positive feedback we are currently receiving from Chelsea FC - hotels. Keep it up!

R is the Hospital Site Inspector at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital. His role involves supporting ISS by conducting thorough checks across the site to ensure that fire extinguishers, water stations, and hand dispensers are functioning properly and safely for the use of patients and guests.

R maintains a direct line of communication with the manager, and on a daily basis, he sends an email outlining the work he has completed and reporting any irregularities he has identified.



T has played a key role in maintaining West Middlesex Hospital safe and clean through various roles. Starting at Equans, he provided reports and checks to the team about water coolers and fire extinguishers. He then moved to his second rotation as a Recycling Champion, where he excelled. Finally, his last rotation involved ensuring the canteen was sparkling clean for patients and guests to use in his role as a restaurant assistant. This was an unforgettable experience for him, and he wished it could have lasted longer.