

Work Experience and Year 13 Students



Work experience can add considerable clout to a student's CV, and if they're thinking of applying to uni, some professional credibility will look great on their UCAS personal statement. Here are our top five tips

As you know, some 'real world' experience can add considerable clout to a student's CV, and if they're thinking of applying to uni, some professional credibility will look great on their UCAS personal statement.

Did you know lack of experience is the number one reason employers turn young job applicants away?*

*Source: UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)

Contrary to what your students may think, work experience isn't about making the tea and photocopying! In fact, there are charters out there that are reinventing work experience ([link is external](#)) to ensure young people are getting genuine value and real life skills from their placements. The Skills for Stroud Work Experience Charter ([link is external](#)) was developed by Stroud District Council to set the standard for work placements for young people in the area. The scheme provides businesses, schools, and colleges with a quality mark of accreditation to ensure their work experience programmes genuinely prepare young people for the world of work. It is based on principles developed by the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) ([link](#)

29% of employers say experience is critical when recruiting young people, and a further 45% say it is significant.*

*Source: UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES)

Our top five tips for work experience success:

1. **Do something that interests you.** If you want to pursue a career in journalism, for example, try to get work experience at a paper or magazine. In many cases, employers want to be approached so don't be afraid to contact your local businesses to see if they have opportunities available.
2. **Research the company before you go.** Make sure you know who you are reporting to, what the company does, its aims and values, and who its customers are.
3. **Make a note of the skills you learn.** This will help when writing your CV or UCAS personal statement. It'll be useful to demonstrate to universities and potential employers in the future how well you can manage your time, communicate, and work with others.
4. **Ask questions.** Don't be afraid to ask relevant questions as it can often show you are interested in the company and keen to learn more.
5. **Follow up with a thank you note.** Keep in contact with the organisation/company following your work experience. You never know, there may be further opportunities available in the future.