

Work experience linked to higher earnings

Taking a work placement has proven to pay off when it comes to optimising earnings.

Despite a rise in graduate vacancies, research suggests that those without work experience stand little chance of securing a job this year.

A study conducted by the Education and Employers Taskforce stressed the importance of relevant work experience and school visits by local companies.

An initial survey of almost 1,000 students aged 19 to 24 was carried out in 2011, which explored the employment circumstances of those asked and their experiences of work placements, workplace visits, careers talks and other links with businesses. The survey showed that young people participating in four or more work experience related activities went on to earn an average of £23,100 a year by their mid-20s, £3,600 more than the average salary (£19,500 a year) earned by those who took part in no activities. On average, each contact a young person made with an employer equated to an extra £900 a year.

Education and Employers Taskforce Director Nick Chambers said: "These are very important findings if we are to give young people of all backgrounds the best chance of earning more in later life."

In many cases a work experience placement can turn into a permanent position with the same company, as recruiters preferring to take someone on with whom they have established an initial relationship and trust as opposed to someone they don't know.

<http://movingonmagazine.co.uk/work-experience-linked-to-higher-earnings/>