

OPENING IRS pening National College Ireland

About the Programme

The North East Inner City (NEIC) Initiative is a social regeneration initiative endorsed by Government involving local communities in the NEIC, businesses and statutory agencies creating opportunities to bring about lasting, positive change in the area.

Work experience has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of young people. Often, work placements can reflect and reproduce patterns of inequality with working class students getting working class placements and middle class pupils experiencing the benefits of 'professional placements'. The NEIC work experience placement programme is a conscious effort to combat this trend and is one strand in a coordinated effort to open doors, raise awareness and aspirations and ultimately to provide students in Dublin 1 schools with access to and insight into professions and career paths outside their existing network.

In 2018 the NEIC Initiative placed almost 100 transition year students from 2 schools in Dublin 1 in high quality work experience placements across businesses and civil and public service organisations in Dublin 1 and Dublin 2. Based on the positive impact of the placements and feedback from students, schools and organisations the programme was extended to include all 6 DEIS schools in the NEIC area in 2019. This past school year 2022— 2023 we secured over 400 placements for 270 students across 108 organisations. Organisations included PwC, A&L Goodbody, McCann Fitzgerald, IAPI, Central Bank of Ireland, Department of the Taoiseach, Beauchamps Solicitors, Matheson, J.P. Morgan, Brown Thomas, Verve Marketing and Events, AIG, IBEC, Accenture, ESB, Bank of Ireland, Edelman, Department of Health, Irish Water, Linesight, Three, The Convention Centre, AIG, Irish Life, Kennedy Wilson and Oracle, Dublin City Architects, Peter Mark, An Garda Siochána and AON.

<u>The Ask</u>

For the academic year 2023/2024 we are looking to secure high quality work experience placements for 300 students. The feedback from past participants was overwhelmingly positive and we are asking all businesses and civil and public service organisations within Dublin to consider hosting a local Dublin 1 student on a work experience placement.

2023/2024 Placement Dates

Placement Dates: 2023 $16^{th} - 20^{th}$ October (20 students) $23^{rd} - 27^{th}$ October (25 students) $13^{th} - 17^{th}$ November (70 students) $20^{th} - 24^{th}$ November (90 students) $27^{th} - 1^{st}$ December (20 students)

Placement Dates: 2024

26th February — 1st March (40 students) 4th — 8th March (25 students) 15th — 19th April (40 students) 22nd — 26th April (40 students)

Participant Feedback

Students

"I am very glad that I have done my work experience in Activate Capital as they were doing what I see myself doing in the future. I want to be a real estate agent and I learned about a lot about researching and developing estates" 'I'm very glad I was given the opportunity to go on this work placement and I am grateful for everything Matheson has done to ensure we had a fantastic experience during the 4 days" Matheson



"I loved the people at Pobal, they were all so nice and it really felt like family. I was also interested to do the work I was given and loved to see the different offices"

Poba

"I felt really welcome in my work placement and felt like everyone was wanting to talk and trying to get to know us more and wanting to help us as much as possible"

Marketing Network

"Thank you to all the staff and Hugh Lane for providing an amazing work experience" Hugh Lane

- "I want to thank Marsh McLennan for giving me the opportunity to do internships and teaching jobs and give me a great experience"
- "Thank you to all the Gardai and everyone who helped make this possible It's really helped as I've always wanted to be a Garda. The placement allowed me to make new friends and taught me even more about the Garda. I'm very gratefu, it's been such an honour"
- "I really enjoyed my time at linesight and made new friends. I got on great with the staff and they made me feel very welcome" Unesight

Participant Feedback

Students

"The work experience in the Central Bank was really nice, everyone there was really kind and welcoming I would really recommend this work placement to anyone because I'm sure they will have a good time like I did" "I really loved my placement. I felt very lucky to have met the Taoiseach. I really love politics so it was a very great opportunity for me to learn the different sections in the Department and how they work as a team for a better country"



"Yes, I'm glad I did my work experience at ARUP because I got to see what work life is like at ARUP. I really liked the work environment and free hot chocolate. I got to learn more about careers in engineering, I developed my skills like teamwork, communication, presentation and public speaking skills. I got to make friends and see new perspectives"

ARUF

KPMC is definitely the best place for work experience. It's very inclusive and you get to learn a lot from just one week of work"

- " My work experience in The Samuel was great. I enjoyed meeting new people, working in the kitchen, with reception and all the free food. The staff were really nice and easy to talk to. I would like more placements like this"
- "I'm very glad I did my placement with SIPTU because I've always wanted to see what they do. The people in the office were friendly and bright, it almost felt like home. I got to join in on the meetings and even got to go to court with them twice"

Participant Feedback

Organisations

- "The students were an absolute pleasure to have around. They managed to make the office an even happier place by just being here and we are so delighted we got involved. We have a responsibility as a large corporate enterprise in this area, to work with the community and show them that it is not beyond their reach. So by getting involved with the NEIC, it has helped us to cast our net even further" Beauchamps
- "My highlight of the week has been the energy the students brought to the academy. They were very engaged and took great interest in the academy content. They really applied themselves to the work and it was a very fun and productive couple of days for all"

Accenture

- "The students really enjoyed being out on a production shoot and when they were presenting back to us on the brief we gave them it was great to see everything that they learned during the week" Huskies Agency
- "The highlight was seeing the student we had really come out of himself once he was in the right area. We had him in the museum to learn about that but he really came into his own when he worked with our Gift Shop team as he had product to work with which kept him busy. He also used his own initiative to keep busy when his work buddy was called away to help customers or was on her break"

"All three students who came to Brown Thomas for their work experience were wonderful in each way. They provided us with loads of fun memories from their interactions with guest speakers and their thoughts on a day to day basis. We really enjoyed having the students with us and hope to see them working with us in the future" Brown Thomas

"Seeing a shy kid start on a Monday that left on a Friday with a lot more knowledge on business and also developed self-confidence" Activate Capital

"All students are very eager to learn. It's great to see their willingness to learn more about a topic or field they may not have been exposed to before. To know that you might be influencing their decision to continue their studies in the near future is extremely rewarding" Central Bank



Can I host more than one placement student?

Yes, absolutely! Many organisations involved in the programme have hosted between 2—10 placement students across different departments.

How will I plan the work experience placement?

We are happy to assist you in planning an engaging work experience placement. We can provide you with sample timetables from previous placements, a short guide on the objectives of the placement and details about the students you will be hosting.

How long does a placement last?

Work experience placements typically last for 1 week. As many offices now operate in a hybrid environment we are also happy to discuss options with organisations that could only host a student on site for 3 days.

Do I need insurance to host a student on placement?

Students are covered by their School Insurers. You will receive the student's insurance documents prior to their placement week.

What support will be available?

The NEIC Project Officer is available throughout the planning process and also during the placement to answer any questions you may have. Please see contact details below.

What is the goal of this placement?

The goal of the placement is to give students an insight into career areas and career paths they may not have considered or be aware of. The placement allows students to engage with individuals engaged in a variety of disciplines in the workplace. It also give them the opportunity to develop their communication and technical skills whilst also building their network and gaining an insight into potential career paths that may interest them, the day to day work involved in the career area and the entry requirements.

