

LESSON PLAN

PREPARING FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

Relevant Tools: Virtual Work Experience

Suggested Age Group: 16 -18

Time: 45 minutes (*can be run in shorter sections*)

Equipment: Access to ucas.com to share resources in group session

Benchmarks

Gatsby Benchmark 2: Learning from Career and Labour Market Information.

Gatsby Benchmark 4: Linking curriculum learning to careers.

CDI Framework 1: Exploring Careers and Career Development.

Objective

Students will understand how to prepare for Virtual Work Experience (VWEX) and in-person placements, ensuring they make the most of the opportunity.

Key Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Recognise the value of work experience in career development.
- Identify key skills and behaviours employers expect.
- Prepare effectively for work experience.

OBJECTIVE 1

Recognise the value of work experience in career development.

Key Questions:

1. Why is it important to learn about the world of work in school or college?
2. Why does Work Experience matter?

Task 1: Paired/group activity with prompts: Identify how work experience will benefit and motivate you, and suggest the new skills you may learn.

Success story: Using the slides provided share case studies of positive experiences.

Reality check: Face to face work experience requires effort and thinking outside the box. Virtual work experience is easier to secure. Some sessions are pre-recorded; others you can book so check dates.

Show them: **UCAS Ultimate Guide: Finding Work Experience.**

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OBJECTIVE 2

Identify key skills and behaviours employers expect.

Task 2: Card Sort: What are employers looking for?

Using the slide deck match the quotes from employers to the skills and qualities they expect from students on a work experience placement.

OBJECTIVE 3

Prepare effectively for work experience.

Task 3: To help research create a mind map of ideas/questions you would want to find answers for if on a work experience placement. Examples provided on the lesson plan slides.

- Challenges and solutions: struggling to find the 'ideal' placement?
- Recognise that it's the skills they are trying to experience and that this can then open their minds to other organisations.

Reflection

- What are you hoping to learn or experience during a work placement?
- What skills or strengths could you develop on a placement?
- How might a placement help shape your career ideas or goals?

Next Steps

Start exploring. You can try a virtual work experience programme and find employers from the Met Office to Airbus on ucas.com to give you a taste of an in-person experience.

Supporting Resources

Virtual Work Experience: www.ucas.com/virtual-work-experiences

Access to Supporting Slide Deck: www.ucas.com/early-careers-lesson-plans

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