

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

WHAT IS VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE?

VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE, ALSO REFERRED TO AS ONLINE, REMOTE OR DIGITAL WORK EXPERIENCE, PROVIDES YOU WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN VALUABLE EXPERIENCE OF THE WORKPLACE, DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AND GAIN KNOWLEDGE OF A RANGE OF SKILLS, EXPLORE NEW INDUSTRIES AND UNDERSTAND A WIDE RANGE OF DIFFERENT JOB ROLES.

You will get to see the inner workings of a company, find out more about what it is really like to work in that industry, understand the skills and qualifications employers are looking for and gain knowledge of a range of potential entry pathways you could consider.

There are a wide range of virtual work experience opportunities available to you and they can all vary, so make sure you find something that interests you and works around your learning commitments.

Some virtual work experience opportunities are open to everyone and provide a platform for students to learn more about certain job roles and industries through pre-recorded videos, virtual tours and Q and A sessions.

Others may require you to go through an application process and offer a more personalised experience with regular online meetings, project work, networking sessions and video tutorials.

It is important that you think about the type of virtual work experience you want to have, and the commitment required on your part to undertake it.

Virtual Work experience can help shape your future pathway and enhance your CV, making you stand out in the competitive employment market.



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DID YOU KNOW...

that a young person is likely to earn up to 18% more during their career if they have received 4 or more encounters with employers while they make their journey through education?

THE BENEFITS OF VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

IN THIS NEXT SECTION WE WILL LOOK AT THE BENEFITS OF VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE AND THEN ASK YOU TO EXPLORE WHICH CAREERS / JOB ROLES INTEREST YOU THE MOST.

What are the benefits of virtual work experience?

1.

When trying to arrange “normal” work experience, many young people find there are barriers which can stop them securing an opportunity which is right for them.

For example, you could be restricted to undertaking a work experience opportunity in just one geographical area because there may be limits on how far you could travel. This often means that the opportunities available to you become more limited.

One of the biggest benefits of virtual work experience is that location does not need to be a barrier and enables you to explore a huge range of new job roles in industries that may not have been possible for you to experience locally under face to face arrangements.

2.

It is free! Virtual work experience doesn't usually cost anything, and you do not even have to worry about transport or travel costs.

You can participate in these experiences from the comfort of your home or at school, usually at a time that suits you and any learning commitments you may have.

3.

Remote working is likely to be important in many job roles in the future. Learning how to work online will mean you are developing skills that will be highly attractive to any future employers.

BENEFITS OF VIRTUAL WEX

4.

Any type of work experience gives you the opportunity to develop the “soft skills” that employers are looking for. Gaining these new skills or improving existing ones will really help you stand out against other candidates in job/ university applications and interviews.

These skills would usually include organisational, timekeeping, self-motivation, communication, and adaptability.

5.

Virtual work experience can help you to really understand what a job role entails or what a certain industry really looks like.

This is important because it gives you the opportunity to discover if a certain job role is right for you before you continue your journey through education on your way to joining the world of work.



TOP TIP...

Always remember, any work experience is good work experience, even if you decide that the job role you experienced isn't right for you. You will have learnt some new or improved your existing skills and enhanced your C.V.

WHAT AM I INTERESTED IN?

BEFORE YOU START LOOKING AT WHAT VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE OFFERS ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU, IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO THINK ABOUT WHAT CAREERS / JOB ROLES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AND UNDERTAKE A LITTLE BIT OF RESEARCH TO INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

Complete the activity below to help you decide which Virtual Work Experience opportunities might be the best ones for you to consider.

What careers you are interested in finding out more about, what job roles or industries would you like to explore further?
List your top 3 below:

Job Role 1:

What more would you like to know about this job role?

Which Worcestershire companies might offer employment in this job role?

Job Role 2:

What more would you like to know about this job role?

Which Worcestershire companies might offer employment in this job role?

Job Role 3:

What more would you like to know about this job role?

Which Worcestershire companies might offer employment in this job role?



DID YOU KNOW...

that if a young person has 4 or more encounters with an employer while in education they are 86% less likely to be unemployed?

WHAT AM I INTERESTED IN?

Using the job roles you have already identified, can you answer these additional questions:

Job Role 1:

What skills are you likely to need to undertake this role?

What qualifications do you think these employers might require you to hold?

Job Role 2:

What skills are you likely to need to undertake this role?

What qualifications do you think these employers might require you to hold?

Job Role 3:

What skills are you likely to need to undertake this role?

What qualifications do you think these employers might require you to hold?

Now you have identified where your career interests lie, participate in some virtual work experience to develop your knowledge further and discover if the job role really is for you.



HOW DO YOU FIND VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE?

BY SEARCHING ONLINE, YOU CAN FIND MANY DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS WHO NOW OFFER VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE AND VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES OF THE WORKPLACE.

We have put together a handy list of virtual work experience opportunities, broken down by industry sector, to highlight just some of the wide range of offers that might be of interest to you.

Don't forget, if you can't see something that interests you, you can carry out your own research online or speak to your Careers Leader/ Adviser who may be able to point you in the right direction.

Once you have completed your Virtual Work Experience please return to this document and complete an activity which will help you highlight what you have learned from the experience.



ARCHITECTURE

- > [Halliday Fraser Munro](#)

CREATIVE

- > [Hunter Bevan](#)

CYBER SECURITY

- > [Cyber Discovery](#)
- > [The Forage - Clifford Chance](#)

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

- > [Side Quest](#)

ENGINEERING

- > [The Forage - John Holland](#)
- > [Work experience weeks \(renishaw.com\)](#)
- > [InvestIN](#)

FOOD

- > [IGD](#)

HERITAGE

- > [The Forage - KPMG](#)

IT

- > [Microsoft](#)

LAW

- > [Kennedys](#)
- > [Pinsent Masons](#)

LEISURE & TOURISM

- > [Hereford Cathedral](#)
- > [Museums Worcestershire](#)

NHS & HEALTHCARE

- > [Brighton & Sussex Medical School](#)
- > [Observe GP](#)
- > [Allied Health Mentor](#)
- > [Medic Mentors](#)
- > [Dental Mentors](#)

VETERINARY

- [Future Learn](#)
- [Vet Mentor](#)

GENERAL

- > [Barclays](#)
- > [Speakers for Schools](#)
- > [Springpod](#)
- > [Speakers for Schools Virtual WEX](#)
- > [Career ready](#)
- > [The Forage](#)

Please don't forget to search online to identify other virtual work experience opportunities which may be of interest to you

YOUR VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

WELL DONE!

You have successfully completed your virtual work experience, now it is time to think about what you learned from your experience and how this has changed or developed your initial thinking.

Please use the text boxes below to answer the following questions.

1. What virtual work experience did you undertake?

Write down some information about the company you experienced.

What job role did you undertake and any tasks you may have been asked to perform.

2. Have you changed your mind?

Did the virtual work experience opportunity cause you to change your mind about the job roles you would like to undertake as a future career?

Let's compare your thoughts now to those job roles you listed before you participated in your Virtual Work Experience opportunity.

Please complete the FREE TEXT Table below:

Job Role 1:

What interested you the most during your experience?

What part of the experience didn't you like?

Can you see yourself doing this job role in the future?

YOUR VIRTUAL WEX

Job Role 2:

What interested you the most during your experience?

What part of the experience didn't you like?

Can you see yourself doing this job role in the future?

Job Role 3:

What interested you the most during your experience?

What part of the experience didn't you like?

Can you see yourself doing this job role in the future?

3. What NEW skills did you learn during your Virtual Work Experience?

Write down some information about the skills you have learnt and how you used them in the job role.

4. What's next for you on your career journey?

Write down some information about what you believe are your next steps on your journey towards the world of work.

You might want to gain in person work experience, or maybe you need to research more career pathways or industry sectors.

Remember to list any questions you might have or information you could ask your schools careers leader / adviser.



TOP TIP...

Virtual work experience is a great addition to your CV or personal statement!

Showing that you have experienced a certain job role will really help your application stand out, so don't forget to add in your virtual work experience and what it taught you.



TOP TIP...

You will never ever have enough work experience.

Employers are always impressed by those who have undertaken additional experiences of the workplace to enhance their CVs. You may wish to consider arranging some additional Virtual or Face to Face work experience during the school holidays.



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