

Employ Autism Higher Education Network

University of Sussex Ambitious About Autism

Internship Programme 2022/23

Terms and Conditions

Introduction

In partnership with Employ Autism, the University of Sussex offers a fully funded scheme to support internships of 6 or 8 weeks (225 or 300 hours) for University of Sussex students and graduates who have an autism diagnosis (“The Programme”). This is part of *Career Lab: design your future*, a series of opportunities prioritised for students from underrepresented groups, designed to develop their skills, experience, connections and confidence throughout their degree.

Organisations must:

- Provide a clear internship role with set objectives and outcomes
- Agree that their contact details are shared with Employ Autism and sign a Memorandum of Understanding provided by Employ Autism
- If successful, provide feedback and information to the University and Employ Autism

This document sets out the terms and conditions of the Ambitious About Autism Internship Programme 2022/23, as agreed between the Employer and the University of Sussex. This will clarify the processes and obligations of both parties to ensure that the employment of the Intern is rewarding for all. In this document the following terms apply:

Intern means a current student or recent University of Sussex graduate identified by the University as meeting the eligibility requirements in clause 3.

Employer means an employer who has satisfied the criteria in clauses 1 and 2 and has been confirmed by the University as accepted onto the Programme.

University means the University of Sussex.

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1. Employer criteria

To be accepted as an Employer on the Programme the Employer must:

- be registered in the UK
- provide a business address, website, company registration number and email address with company domain
- register promptly as a supplier with the University (*see 5. University procurement*)
- have a business bank account
- have a named supervisor for the Intern, and a named contact to communicate with the University
- process salary payments via Pay as You Earn and pay a minimum of the Living Wage (*see 7. Salary*)
- have employer's liability insurance
- adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in this document
- have in place all the usual expected policies to manage its business and employees including grievance, disciplinary and data protection policies
- agree to undertake the two funded employer training sessions delivered online by EmployAutism (or must have already completed these sessions in 2021 or 2022)

Priority will be given to organisations that positively contribute to addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability issues, as outlined in the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#).

We will not accept private individuals or vacancies which are based in private homes.

2. Internship criteria

The Internship must:

- be for a duration of **6 or 8 weeks** full time (225 or 300 hours in total); part time hours over a longer time will be considered but the full number of hours must be allocated
- commence in June or July 2023 (exact dates to be agreed between the Intern and the Employer)
- offer a genuine work experience opportunity (*see 4. The internship*)
- be based at a business address; remote working will be considered but the Intern must be provided with equipment needed to complete the role (*see clause 9. Contract of employment*)
- adhere to the terms and conditions outlined in this document
- offer a salary of at least £11.95 for London-based Employers and £10.90 for Employers-based elsewhere in the UK per hour, which shall be funded by the University subject to the conditions in clause 10

3. Eligible students and graduates

The University of Sussex Career Lab Intern must be:

- a University of Sussex graduate from 2020, 2021 or 2022, or a current registered University of Sussex student
- diagnosed as autistic

The University shall confirm to the Employer that the Intern has satisfied the criteria. If you have any questions about an applicant's eligibility, please contact us.

4. The internship

The University is looking for meaningful and relevant projects which can be undertaken in the 6 or 8-week internship period. The aim is that the internship allows autistic students and graduates to gain increased work readiness and the ability to move into employment, be empowered to self-advocate in the workplace and to have enhanced confidence to contribute as an employee within a team. There are a minimum number of hours to be undertaken (see 6. Funding).

Internships will be stand-alone work experience opportunities and will not go towards accreditation of academic study at the University.

The internship should not be covering work that would usually be undertaken by staff taking industrial action.

The internship should offer the intern the opportunity to develop their employability skills, and must ensure that they acquire or enhance at least 5 of the following skills:

- self-management
- team working
- business and customer awareness
- problem solving
- communication and literacy
- application of numeracy
- application of information technology
- an ability to demonstrate creativity, collaboration, and an innovative approach

The internship must assign an Intern projects and/or tasks with specific learning outcomes. The projects/tasks should be structured and offer the Intern personal and skills development. Interns must be provided with a clear description of the roles and/or responsibilities for each project/task and the identified learning outcomes.

The Employer must nominate a supervisor to oversee the internship and who will have management responsibility during the internship. The supervisor must hold regular meetings with the Intern, including a formal mid-way review and an appraisal at the end of the internship.

Approximately midway through the internship, some internship visits will be conducted by the

Careers and Entrepreneurship team. This gives both the Employer and Intern an opportunity to feedback on the internship so far. The team will be in contact with the Employer to arrange a visit, however due to capacity, we unfortunately will not be visiting each internship. The Internships team is available to support you and would encourage you to get in contact if you would like a visit.

5. University procurement

All employers must be set up as a supplier on the University of Sussex finance system. If not already registered, you will need to provide the University with:

- full trading name and registered company name
- company registration number and registered address
- VAT registration number (if applicable)
- full contact details
- business bank account (personal bank accounts will not be accepted)
- organisational website

For those organisations not currently registered as suppliers with the University, please ensure you respond to any enquiries promptly as failure to do so may delay payment.

Following confirmation of a secured internship, a purchase order number will be raised and forwarded to the employer. This PO number should be quoted on an invoice (no VAT to be added) and submitted to the University.

6. Funding

Funding for the Intern's salary will be provided as a lump sum to the employer by the University of Sussex Finance Division. Payment will be made by BACS transfer.

Subject to clauses 9 and 10, the University will provide £2,500 funding to cover the £10.90 per hour salary for an Intern undertaking a 6-week internship (225 hours). For London-based employers funding will be £2,700 to cover the £11.95 per hour salary.

The University will provide £3,300 funding to cover the £10.90 per hour salary for an Intern undertaking an 8-week internship (300 hours). For London-based employers funding will be £3,600 to cover the £11.95 per hour salary.

Any additional costs, such as employer's National Insurance contributions, must be met by the Employer as appropriate.

Please note: our payment terms are 30 days from receipt of invoice. **If your Intern's first wage payment is likely to fall before we have paid the invoice, you need to ensure that you have the funds to pay your Intern.**

We cannot guarantee that all advertising employers will receive funding. (See 9. Advertising and selection.)

7. Salary

The salary for the internship will be £10.90 per hour (the real Living Wage) for Sussex and the rest of the UK. London-based employers must meet the current London real Living Wage of £11.95 per hour. Employers are welcome to offer a higher rate at their own cost.

All Employers must therefore agree to pay these hourly rates as a minimum, irrespective of any other human resource policies the organisation may have in place.

The Employer will pay the Intern through their usual PAYE internal salary or wage processes and make these clear to the Intern. Opportunities which are paid outside a PAYE system will not be accepted.

The University is not involved with the payment process between Intern and Employer.

8. Termination

8.1 Once the Intern has accepted an offer of Internship and it has been confirmed, then the Employer and the Intern shall take all reasonable steps to ensure successful completion of the Internship.

8.2 Should it become apparent that the Intern fails to start the Programme, or fails to complete their internship, please notify the University at the earlier convenience.

8.3 Occasionally, it will be necessary for an Intern to withdraw from an Internship. Provided the withdrawal is not due to a breach of these terms and conditions by the Employer, the University shall offer to readvertise the position if the Programme is still active.

8.4 If pursuant to clause 8.3

- I. The Intern has withdrawn due to a breach of these terms and conditions by the Employer and the University decides it is not appropriate for the Employer to continue the Programme: or
- II. A suitable replacement cannot be found then any sums paid by the University to the Employer for uncompleted days of the internship shall be repaid by the Employer to the University within 30 days of demand.

8.5 If an Employer wishes to terminate the internship it is required to notify the University before taking any action and the University shall take reasonable steps to assist the Employer. If it is still necessary for the Employer to terminate the internship, then it shall immediately refund to the University any sums paid by the University for uncompleted days of the internship.

8.6 The contract of employment is between the Intern and the Employer and should contain information for both parties about procedures should the internship end early.

9. Contract of employment

Interns must be treated as temporary employees of the Employer and be based at a business address or working remotely with appropriate support. They should be provided with:

- a contract of employment, including dates of work, expected hours of work, sick pay arrangements, and holiday entitlement
- a named supervisor
- a full and clear induction to the organisation and its working practices, code of conduct, disciplinary and grievance procedures, and policies on confidentiality and data protection
- a safe working environment which conforms to applicable health and safety legislation – guidance is available <https://www.acas.org.uk/working-from-home>
- appropriate liability and insurance cover
- where possible, all equipment required to undertake the role should be provided, if this is not possible a discussion should be held with the intern

Further information and guidance can be viewed at www.gov.uk/browse/employing-people and www.acas.org.uk/employment-contracts.

It is also the employer's responsibility to undertake all usual pre-employment checks, including [Right to Work](#).

For information, holiday entitlement for a member of staff working full time for 8 weeks will be approximately 4.1 days.

10. Advertising and selection

10.1 Employers will express interest by submitting the [Ambitious About Autism Internship Expression of Interest 2022/23](#) by Sunday 14 May 2023. CareerHub log-in is required, or register at: <https://careerhub.sussex.ac.uk/employers/> The team reserves the right to reject vacancies.

10.2 Once the University receives the expression of interest, the opportunity will be assessed. The University will decide whether the proposed internship is satisfactory or whether it will be rejected. The University's decision is final and there is no avenue of appeal. Opportunities may also be declined for funding reasons.

10.3 When an internship is accepted, it shall be advertised to eligible students and recent graduates (*see clause 12. Important dates and deadlines*).

Please note that advertising an opportunity through the University of Sussex Ambitious About Autism Internship 2022/23 Programme does not guarantee recruitment. Whilst we will encourage students and graduates to apply, the recruitment process will be competitive and it must be anticipated that not all internship opportunities will attract applications, and not all recruitment processes

will be successful.

Some internships will come about because of a direct application to an employer on behalf of a student or graduate. These opportunities will not be promoted widely.

10.4 Employers must not advertise positions in any other way, including company intranet sites, websites, social media channels or word of mouth. University of Sussex Ambitious About Autism internships are only open to *eligible* students and recent graduates and no other candidates can be funded.

10.5 The Employer must decide how it wishes eligible graduates to apply either via CV, covering letter or company application form. Applications from eligible students and graduates will be submitted via the University's Careers and Entrepreneurship team and forwarded to the Employer so that eligibility can be confirmed, and activity can be tracked. Employers must conduct selection and/or interviews according to the usual recruitment processes of the organisation. The University will not match students.

10.6 Internship funding is limited and is allocated on a first-come first-served basis as soon as employers let the Internships team know that they are ready to interview. We cannot guarantee that all advertising employers will receive funding. **Employers must contact the University before inviting candidates to interview by emailing internships@sussex.ac.uk.** We recommend that you do not delay arranging interviews, and students will also be advised to make early applications to their favoured roles as vacancies may close as soon as suitable candidates are found.

10.7 Once the University has confirmed that funding is available, the Employer can proceed with interviews and make an internship offer directly to the selected candidate. Funding will be ringfenced for 7 days to enable the Employer to make the offer and give the student or graduate time to consider whether to accept. **If the offer is accepted by the student or graduate, the Employer must immediately email internships@sussex.ac.uk.** The University will not provide funding for any offers of employment made to successful candidates before the University has confirmed funding is available.

11. Monitoring and Feedback

Contact will be made by Careers and Entrepreneurship during the internship, but Employers are encouraged to raise any issues with the Internships team at any time.

Employers will be required to provide feedback to the University on the impact of the internship programme and may be asked for permission to use information provided for future marketing campaigns.

12. Important dates and deadlines

Until 14 May 2023	Expressions of Interest open to Employers. No internships will be accepted for advertisement after 14 May 2023.
6 March 2023 – 14 May 2023	We will start promoting suitable opportunities to eligible students. Employers are asked to set their own application closing date (the latest being 31 August), and recruitment must be completed by 15 September.
15 September 2023	All recruitment and selection must be decided (offer made to student, accepted and University notified). Please note: Career Lab Summer Internship funding is limited. Employers are not guaranteed funding and must confirm with the University, before interviewing, that funding is still available.
June-September 2023	Internships will usually start in June or July, but can be in August or September. Careers & Entrepreneurship visits will take place, with prior arrangement. <i>Please note: the University vacation begins on 29 May 2023. We expect internships to commence from June but some students may be available earlier, depending on individual timetables. Teaching restarts 18 September 2023.</i> <i>Internship dates are to be decided between the Intern and the Employer but must not interfere with a student's academic commitments.</i>

13. Contact us

If you have any questions about the Internships Programme, please contact the Internships team at Careers and Entrepreneurship, University of Sussex: internships@sussex.ac.uk

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