



What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH helps local young disabled people aged 18-25 into work. We provide a supported internship at St George's Hospital, providing young people with real work experience. We have been on site at the hospital since 2012.

What we do

Project SEARCH is an international transition to work program committed to transforming the lives of young people with learning disabilities and autism

The programme was designed by two nurses in American who felt there should be more employment opportunities for people with LD

Our vision is to help young people with Learning disabilities and Autism find great jobs.





Meet our Project SEARCH Team

Meet our Project Search Team



*Bethany
Madigan*



*Matthew
Kayes*



*Sarah
Darby*

Our staff provide intense support in work experience placements, job applications and with parents/carers to support our young people to be work ready. We are on site everyday and can job coach, offer disability awareness training and support departments in the hospital to host a new placement.



What is Project SEARCH?

- ▶ Model of a Supported Internship
 - ▶ a programme of study
- ▶ Opportunity for young people aged 18-25 with learning disabilities and/or autism to develop existing skills and learn new skills in a work setting.
- ▶ Opportunity to try different jobs and have varied work experiences.
- ▶ Aim is to get a paid job at the end of the programme.





How does Project SEARCH work?

- ▶ Business led supported internship
- ▶ Partnership between host business (normally St Georges Hospital), education provider (Cricket Green School).
- ▶ 1 academic year – September to July
 - ▶ 7-8 interns per year
 - ▶ 3 job rotations - Up to 20 hours a week in placements
 - ▶ Specific time to review & reflect--1.5 hour class room sessions a day
- ▶ Managers & Mentors from hospital departments support our trainees in work experience.
- ▶ Parents as Partners sessions



What can trainees expect?

- ▶ Individual Employment Plan
- ▶ Individual targets based on a rigorous assessment process
- ▶ On site support – Employment Coordinator, Tutor and Mentors
- ▶ 3 hospital based placements where you learn competitive, marketable skills.
- ▶ Classroom based learning to support what is learnt in placements
- ▶ Relevant work related training

WORK ROTATION PLACEMENTS AT ST GEORGE'S HOSPITAL

Our work rotation placements within St George's Hospital are suited to the interns interests and skills. The hospital offers a wide range of learning opportunities for our young people to develop.



What sort of placements are there at St George's Project SEARCH?

Portering

Theatre Portering

Outpatients Reception

Administration Officer within
Haematology department

Administration Officer within
Medical Staffing Human
Resources department

- University Shop
- Medical Records
- Restaurant Operative
- Pharmacy Pre-Pack
- Endoscopy
- Sterile Services

What can trainees expect from staff?

- ▶ Project SEARCH staff onsite each day.
- ▶ Support from placement mentors.
- ▶ Support to find work- developing a CV and portfolio.
- ▶ **There is no guarantee of jobs in the Hospital**, so we also look at jobs outside the Hospital together and find ways to let employers hear about you.



Why focus on employment?

- ▶ 1 in 2 people with LD suffer chronic loneliness. Work provides structure, being part of a team, a wage, a reason to get up, something to be proud of.
- ▶ 70% of people with LD want to work, only 6% are in work.
- ▶ Work is possible, our interns can benefit departments and bring something special to the workplace.
- ▶ Better health- mental health, less time in hospital.
- ▶ Increased confidence, better social skills.
- ▶ Focus on the ability rather than disability.
- ▶ **INCLUSION, INDEPENDENCE, CHOICES**



Project SEARCH

at St George's Hospital

So far we have helped 39 young people into paid employment. Many more have had life changing experiences and continue in volunteer roles.



With support our young people can successfully work in various different roles.



Recruitment Process for Project SEARCH?

- ▶ **Late October:** Project Search Staff hold an open day at St Georges Hospital where staff give in-depth information on the project including what the academic year looks like and what placements are on offer within the hospital. Hard copies of the application packs are given out at the open day.
- ▶ **Late October-Late November:** Application forms due in to Project Search staff, to complete shortlisting for Interview/Assessment Days.
- ▶ **Early December:** Written invites to Interview/Assessment days are sent out to young people and their families.
- ▶ **Week before Christmas break:** Two Assessment days are held at St Georges Hospital. These include group activities and a 1:1 informal interview (where young people are given the questions in advance to prepare).
- ▶ **January:** Young people are informed if they have been successful in obtaining a place at Project Search. They are sent an offer letter along with other documents to sign and send back such as an acceptance slip. Reference requests are also sent to colleague/school.
- ▶ **February:** Project Search Staff contact young people's case workers to request and secure funding for the academic year.



BASSIRIKI

Bassiriki came to Project SEARCH with very low confidence, although he was very keen to work and wanted to earn his own money.

Bassiriki was early every day and worked hard to get a job at a supermarket during the pandemic.

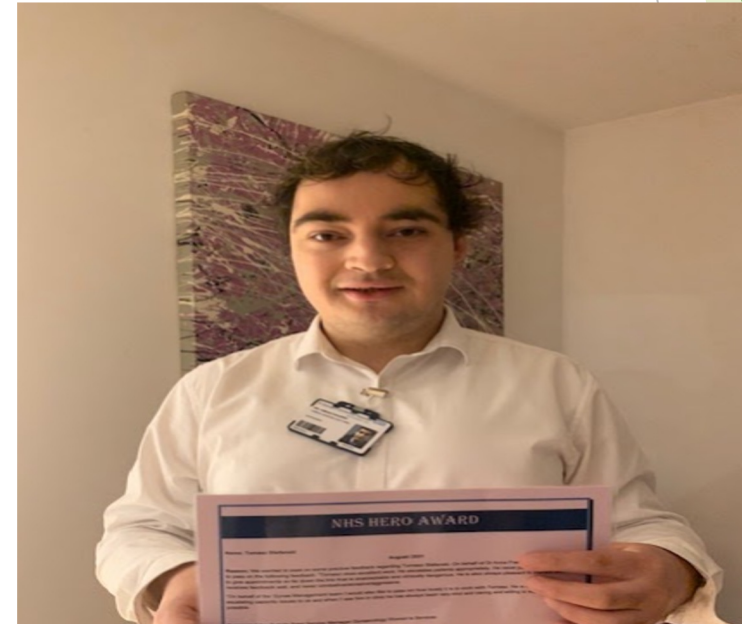
Bassiriki very quickly built up stamina and confidence to be a friendly very well liked team member who is always up for over time!



TOMASZ

Tomasz is now working full time as a Outpatients Coordinator at St George's Hospital and has won the NHS hero award twice in the past 3 years.

Tomasz started Project SEARCH lacking maturity and with a lot of anxieties about work. Tomasz excelled in each of his placements and became a very efficient, hard-working and responsible staff member.





REMELA

Remela was quite inexperienced when coming to St George's Project SEARCH and it was quite overwhelming for her to begin with.

Remela was often quiet and shy but she really enjoyed company and getting on with tasks and was always very keen to try new things.

She showed an interest in working in catering so when the opportunity of a work trail arose at the Shangri-La Hotel at The Shard, she took it willingly and attended with the support of her Job Coach.

Remela was then offered a job as a Assistant Pastry Chef. Remela learned so much at St George's to increase her communication skills, confidence and maturity. Project SEARCH supported Remela to transition to her new role (she needed support with learning the route, how to get into the building , how to complete tasks, how to remember colleagues names).





Thank you



Any Questions?

Contact us:
Bethany.Madigan@cricketgreen.merton.sch.uk