

CEIAG NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 3 SUMMER ISSUE

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What has been happening in the CEIAG Department this term ??

WORK EXPERIENCE— WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT ??

Work experience is any [experience](#) that a person gains while working in a specific field or occupation, but the expression is widely used to mean a type of [volunteer](#) work that is commonly intended for young people — often [students](#) — to get a feel for professional working environments.

Work Experience is a critical part of presenting your motivation/desire/interests in a given career area. Admissions Tutors are faced with increasing applications year-on-year and with students presenting similar academic standards, Work Experience often becomes the deciding factor to be made an offer from a University or College:

((1)) DEMAND OUTSTRIPS SUPPLY OF PLACES:

Demand will continue to outstrip the supply of university places. There are already 50,000 more applications this year than there were acceptances at universities in 2011. Competition will be more intense as the number of government-funded places at English universities will [drop by 10,000](#).

(Education Editor—The Guardian Jan 2012)

Admission Tutors are looking for sustained periods of work experience as evidence of commitment to the courses being applied for. This means a three or five day period of placement scheduled during part of the Lower Sixth School Curriculum is often not enough.

Increasingly students applying for highly competitive courses are demonstrating 3—6 weeks of placement experience gained through contacts in Industry or applying for School Bursary Programmes such as the Nuffield Science Programme. (See Mrs Lane)(Head of Biology)

WORK EXPERIENCE—Continued.....

YEAR 13 students will engage in their official 3 Day Placement during 24th, 25th and 26th October 2013.

It is very important that if the student wants a strong personal statement connected to their career path they must illustrate that they have spent adequate time in a top company/voluntary role linked to this career path.

All students have **full access to a school database of local and regional employers via RM Shared Documents and this is communicated to home via the Student/Parent Pack for Work Experience. Furthermore Charter NI (Business In the Community) act as the administrator for official placements in organisations such as UTV, the Banking Sector, the NHS Trusts, the Court Service etc.. (please see database in careers folder on RM Shared Documents)**

Below are some ideas of companies or Volunteering Organisations that are suitable placements for applying to high demand Career paths for Higher Education:

MEDICINE/MEDICAL ALLIED COURSES:

Charter Placement Scheme (Business In the Community)(Organised directly through School Head of Careers—**requests should be made at the end of Year 12 for Yr 13 placement**)

E.g. Belfast Trust

Care Homes/Residential Homes

Voluntary work in Local Hospice (Newry)

Porter Job (PT) in Daisy Hill Hospital (Summer Positions)

Insight Mornings—Southern Trust

Working in a Voluntary Capacity with less abled people e.g. Lourdes/Newry Gateway Community/Rathore Special School—Summer Schemes or Internal School Scheme

Princes Trust/Duke of Edinburgh Award

SOCIAL WORK/YOUTH & COMMUNITY WORK

Voluntary work– any

Working in a Voluntary Capacity with less abled people e.g. Lourdes/Newry Gateway Community/Rathore Special School—Summer Schemes or Internal School Scheme;

Youth Club Involvement—Leadership roles/Pointer Project;

Princes Trust/Duke of Edinburgh Award/Barnardos Disabled Children & Young People Participation Scheme/ Cul Camp Leadership Roles

Visit this site for more links— <http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/links>

TEACHING

School Experience is essential—but often schools want you to be have your NI Access form (costs £30)

Working in a Voluntary Capacity with less abled people e.g. Lourdes/Newry Gateway Community/Rathore Special School—Summer Schemes or Internal School Scheme;

Youth Club Involvement—Leadership roles/Pointer Project;

Princes Trust/Duke of Edinburgh Award/Barnardos Disabled Children & Young People Participation Scheme/ Cul Camp Leadership Roles

Mentoring Younger children e.g through school Literacy and Numeracy Schemes

Continued.....

LAW

Local Solicitors Firms

NI Court Service (apply through Charter via Careers Department)

Valuable evidence of participating in high level Debating Forums e.g. Youth Councils, Bro Mc Farland Debating Competition; School Council Roles.

COMPUTING:

All State [Amazon](#), [Apps for Good](#), [ASIDUA](#), [BluePrint Appointments](#), [British Airways \(BA\)](#), [BT](#), [BT Training Solutions](#), [CyberSource](#), [DFPNI - IT Assist](#), [Double Negative](#), [eBay](#), [Ecliptic Labs](#), [Equiniti ICS](#), [e-skills UK](#), [Fluent Technology](#), [FUJUTSI Google](#), [Innocent Drinks](#), [IT in Northern Ireland](#), [ITV](#), [J Sainsbury](#), [Kainos](#), [Learning Pool](#), [Liberty IT](#), [Logica](#), [Milo](#), [MySpace](#), [NiSoft](#), [Northgate Managed Services](#), [Novosco](#), [Nvolve](#), [Qwizdom](#), [SAP](#), [Singularity](#), [Sonic Academy](#), [Speechstorm](#), [Tascomi Ltd](#), [Texthelp Systems Ltd](#), [The Carphone Warehouse Networks](#), [TotalMobile Solutions Ltd](#), [Vyro Games](#),

Any student interesting in the area of Computer Science needs to be seeking placement in one of these companies listed above—most of which have divisions in Belfast or Dublin. Competition is very high so you need to apply very early to their Human Resource Departments with your CV for consideration.

So what opportunities exist for School Leavers ????????

BBC ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The BBC announced the launch of a new Apprenticeship scheme in Broadcast Engineering. (April 2013)

The scheme is in partnership with major UK Universities, Creative Skillset and other UK Broadcasters.

It offers a 3 year contract of employment with the BBC with fee funded 3rd level study for a Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Engineering.

The jobs are based in England with study at the University's of Salford and Birmingham.

This is a great opportunity for technically interested and suitably capable school leavers.

Visit for more information:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/latestnews/2013/apprenticeship.html>

PWC – Apprenticeships:

You may be thinking more broadly about your options after you finish school or college. You'll be pleased to hear you can jump straight into the world of work if you have some good A levels behind you (or equivalent). Vocational and work based learning is a real option if you're interested in earning a wage and gaining some professional qualifications.

Our Higher Apprenticeship programme is a real alternative for talented individuals who are interested in a **career in accountancy, finance or consulting.**

Our programme is designed to help develop your business skills whilst undertaking formal training and qualifications. You'll take an accredited route to a highly skilled career at PwC within a nationally recognised framework.

Find out more and apply for our Higher Apprenticeships in:

[Consulting](#)

[Tax](#)

[Financial Advisory](#)

<http://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/student/offices/belfast.jhtml>

SANTANDER – SCHOOL LEAVERS

SANTANDER - FLYING **START PROGRAMME**

Designed exclusively for school leavers, Flying Start is packed with challenges and a great paid alternative to university – courtesy of one of the world's most successful banks.

This four-year course equips you with everything you need to be a successful professional. Join and you'll soon become a strong communicator, manager and negotiator with the skills to engage with customers, plan projects, solve problems, make strong decisions, and much more.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Two A-levels at grade C or above

BTEC Pass

You'll also need GCSE maths and English at grade C or above. If you are not studying maths or English as part of your A-levels then you will need to have a grade B or above for these subjects at GCSE level.

SANTANDER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Due to the success of the Santander UK apprenticeship programme initially launched as a pilot scheme in 2012, it has now been expanded and offers a great **opportunity for people aged 16 upwards to get onto the career ladder within one of the world's largest banks.**

The role

We're offering a permanent role where you will undertake a vocational and work based learning programme that enables you to earn a competitive wage and gain some qualifications.

To join the Santander UK Apprenticeship Programme, you will need to apply for a customer oriented role with us at a direct entry level (e.g. a cashier in one of our branches, or a customer service adviser in one of our call centres or operational areas). You'll be undertaking an apprenticeship and depending on which area you join, the qualification you can obtain will be in one of the following areas:-

Customer Service

or

Providing Financial Services

You'll be helped to achieve this by following a well structured programme which will be managed by very experienced assessors, as well as your line manager.

How you'll develop

We believe the best way to learn is on the job and the work you do will help you to practise forming excellent relationships with customers and appreciate the importance of providing financial services or customer service. We believe these skills are at the heart of being a true employee of Santander. You'll follow an accredited route to building a promising career at Santander UK within a nationally recognised framework.

What you'll need

This programme is open to you if:

You have a minimum of at least 2 GCSEs (or equivalent) at grades A - C in both English and Maths.

<http://www.santanderjobs.co.uk/flyingstart.asp>

KAIRNOS—EARN AS YOU LEARN FOR A- LEVEL LEAVERS PROGRAMME FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN AN IT CAREER

Kainos is a thriving technology company (based in Belfast) with particular expertise in three core markets – healthcare, financial services and public sector

The highly successful and fast-growing technology company, which works with all of the latest technologies in its projects for businesses and public sector organisations across the UK, will target high-performing A-Level students, paying for their degree qualification while they work in Kainos, in a package varying between £75,000 and £100,000 per student.

The 'Earn as you Learn' scheme will allow students to earn a living and develop real-world expertise and experience, as trainee software engineers, while simultaneously studying part-time for a degree which Kainos will also fund.

The initiative, one of many bold and creative development drives spearheaded by Kainos, is aimed at upper 6th students who are about to sit their A Levels and who are thinking about what to do after school. Kainos will offer conditional positions to a small number of individuals who will work for the company full time and study a degree on a part-time basis from September. "Our goal is to attract, select and appoint up to 10 candidates as trainee software engineers for employment commencing in September 2013. We will be targeting those who have completed A Levels or equivalent examinations in June 2013."

"We will be offering permanent employment, with a generous salary, while paying for tuition fees for each chosen student's undergraduate degree. We are a high tech company,

but with a traditional view – you go to university to get educated, not to get buried in debt”

Entry requirements

GCSE Maths and English plus three other subjects grade A to C, plus expected GCE qualifications of two B grades, one of which must be in maths, chemistry, physics or computer science. Equivalent qualifications will also be accepted.

Full details of the requirements, the full benefits, and the application and selection process, can be found on the Kainos web site.

The salary received by recruits starts at £10,000/annum with increments based upon promotion. Kainos will also pay all course fees, course materials, provide a laptop and all the required software. Kainos has partnered with University of Ulster, Jordanstown (UUJ), and successful applicants will study part-time for a BSc Hons Computing Systems degree. <http://www.kainos.com/>

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING in conjunction with South West College are offering GOLD ENGINEERING ADVANCED TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIPS. Programmes are open to students with an excellent academic background who are interested in pursuing a **career in the Engineering Industry in the areas of Design; R & D; Screening Technology Maintenance; Procurement; Manufacturing Management.**

Programmes commence September 2013—and applications are welcome from those who hold or expect to achieve:

6 GCSEs (A—C) (Inc Maths, English and a Science or Technology related subject) OR

2 AS/A Levels—Grades A—C(Maths or Science related subject)

www.swc.ac.uk/engineering-gold

CEIAG DEPARTMENT

What has been Happening in Term 2/3 ??

MARCH 2013

Year 8,9 & 11 students in the Abbey CBS enjoyed the second work related learning week of the school year.

- During Holy Week the CEIAG Department and Young Enterprise NI hosted a fun and interactive programme with all Year 9 pupils allowing them the opportunity to reflect on their entrepreneurial skills and qualities. In team based workshops the young men developed business plans for a new product launch.
- The Year 8 students also developed their understanding of their employability skills during their 'Your School, Your Business Programme'. This programme allowed the students to think and reflect on the problems and challenges of running a business organisation such as a large school.
- Year 11 Students commenced their first steps into an insight into the world of work by carrying out a work shadowing day with a family member / friend in our annual 'Take Your Son To Work' initiative.

A very engaging, stimulating and fun week for all involved !

Friday 08th March—Two Lower Sixth students engaged in an interactive Insight Morning at Daisy Hill Hospital for a Medical Career.

Wednesday 20th March Four Lower Sixth Students attended a STEM Based Event at BE Aerospace in Kilkeel, Co Down.

This was an informative morning allowing the students to observe how their skills developed in Maths and Physics apply to the world of aircraft Engineering.

Monday 29th April—HoD Of CEIAG accompanied 6 Lower Sixth students to a cross ALC event hosted by St.Mary's High School Newry. Queens University School of Law delivered an informative presentation on applying to LAW school and the progression routes after HE.

See all Pictures that follow :

WORK RELATED LEARNING & STEM INITIATIVES AT THE ABBEY CBS



A FOCUS ON THE CAREER OF ACCOUNTANCY:

Accountancy involves keeping and analysing financial records for companies or individuals, helping them to increase their profits including advising on financial planning and development, tax returns and future costs and budgets.

There are 3 main areas of work:

Industrial and Commercial—employed directly by a company and help to plan the company's development, predicting costs, benefits and risks;

Private Practice—involves working for a specialist accountancy firm that offers services to clients;

Public Sector—working for public bodies like the NHS, universities or local authorities—providing an efficient quality service that is within the budgets set by the government.

In summary there are two main routes to becoming a qualified Accountancy professional:

((1)) Complete a Third level degree (not necessarily an Accountancy & Finance Degree!!)

Or

((2)) Gain Full time work in a professional environment and complete a Certificate/Diploma (PT or FT options available) via the Accounting Technicians Ireland or Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) (Vocational Route)

After completing a Degree at third level—graduates can apply for professional accountancy qualifications such as:

- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) qualification
- Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) certificate
- Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) Qualification

If however your Third Level Degree is in accounting or a related subject you may be exempt from certain papers for some of the professional qualifications.

If you are interested in following the Vocational Route to pursue Accountancy—you should research local and regional Accountancy firms to ascertain the opportunities for Full Time Work and Part-Time Study.

Some of the Top Accountancy Firms who recruit in what is called the **Northern Ireland Chartered Accountancy Milkround following Degree completion include:**

- BDO Northern Ireland (the world's 5th largest accountancy network)
- Cavanagh Kelly (NI Based)
- Deloitte (world's largest professional services firm)
- Ernst & Young NI
- Grant Thornton
- KPMG
- Moore Stephens NI
- PwC
- RSM McClure Watters
- ASM Accountants
- Baker Tilly Money Moore
- Bank Of England
- Barclays Corporate
- Citi (leading global financial services company)
- Fidelity WorldWide Investment

The minimum entry requirement for Accountancy Professional Examination entry is a minimum of a 2:1 Honours Degree plus a strong background in English and Maths.

Careers in accounting and finance can be very rewarding and those with lots of experience often receive very high salaries. Indeed, studies show that many accounting graduates often end up in senior management positions.

There is a great variety of work within the accounting profession with a bewildering array of career opportunities to suit all interests including auditing and assurance work, consulting, corporate finance, tax planning, and insolvency.

Despite the challenging economy, the overall jobs market for accounting and finance in Ireland remains positive.

Indeed, the National Skills Bulletin 2011 which is produced by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs has identified accounting and finance as a sector where there are skills shortages.

There are over 100,000 persons employed in a range of accounting and finance professions (making up almost 6% of Ireland's workforce) and the report highlights skills shortages in the areas of risk analysis, management and cost accounting, compliance and regulatory standards, and global and financial analysis.

There are also opportunities in finance support roles in several niche areas, including credit control, debt recovery, anti-money laundering, and some specialist roles in supply chain operations.

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