

Work Experience

‘How To Apply’ Guide

Whether you’re thinking about what to do after leaving school, or want to get back into the workplace after a break, why don’t you consider a work-experience placement with McDonald’s as a place to start?

You’ll be given the chance to find out what you’re good at, learn brilliant new and transferable skills, while experiencing what great teamwork is all about. Not to mention, you’ll have an opportunity to go behind the scenes in our restaurants and see where the magic happens!

This handy guide serves up everything you need to know, including a step-by-step through the all-important application process.

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In-person work experience

Why start a work experience placement at McDonald's?

Employers always ask for relevant previous experience, right?

But how do you get experience if you've never had a job, or taken time out or changed your career?

That's where we can help. Our in-person work experience is an exciting opportunity to take part in a hands-on placement in one of our famous restaurants, all while developing transferable skills that employers love. As well as seeing how a McDonald's really works, you'll gain experience from one of the largest and most diverse employers in the world, where **skills like critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork and communication are essential** to doing what we do.

Age is just a number! Our placements are open to anyone aged 14 and over in the UK and Ireland. They have been designed to give you that all-important confidence boost, as well as that missing piece on your CV, to take your next steps into the world of work – wherever that may be.

Our inclusive team will be there to answer any questions and guide you through your placement.

Working at McDonald's

- What's it like?

Our culture is built on being supportive, welcoming and inclusive. So your placement will be a great place to learn from others of all ages and backgrounds and work as a team, while finding out more about yourself too.

Our restaurants are fast-paced, and no two days are the same – they're a great place to develop skills like communication, leadership and teamwork.

You'll be supported every step of the way by the whole team, and given a point of contact - your 'go-to' person to guide you throughout your placement.



What will I do on my placement?

You'll be shown around the restaurant and get to see how it all works. Every day is different, but you can expect to:



Take part in restaurant activities such as **serving customers, preparing food** and **maintaining the customer areas**.



Complete **essential skills reflections** around communication, teamwork, leadership and planning.



Write or update your CV and try taking part in a **mock interview**.



Get to think about **what you might like to do after your placement** and continue your essential skills development.

Example work experience placement timetable day one

Time	Activity	Led by...
Morning 	Welcome Meeting, induction and tour (1 hour): This will help you settle in, know where everything is, and what to expect. Food and Health & Safety training (1 hour): This will be online. It'll take you through key health and safety requirements.	Restaurant/ Business Manager, People Manager or Shift Leader. A manager or your point of contact will support you with this.
Morning	Morning break (15 mins): You'll have a short break while working in one of the above areas. Goal setting (30 mins): You'll use page 8 of this booklet to set goals for your placement using the SMART technique.	You , with support from your point of contact.
Afternoon 	Lunch break (1 hr): You'll get a one-hour break for lunch. The time will depend on your crew. Restaurant experience: You'll work in the first of three areas, rotating through all of them during your placement: 1. Production – you'll make our delicious food as part of the kitchen team 2. Customer areas – you'll help keep the restaurant clean, speak with customers and help at service points 3. Service – you'll interact with customers by taking or presenting orders	You , with support from the crew.
	Afternoon break (15 mins): You'll have a short break before moving onto the next activity. Developing essential skills (30 mins-1hr): You'll have time to reflect on the skills you developed during the day. There are prompt questions on page 9 to help you. End of day check-in (15 mins): You'll also have a short check-in with your point of contact to reflect on how your first day went.	You , with support from your point of contact. Your point of contact.



Please note, work experience placements are unpaid.

How To Apply

**1 See what placements are available.**

Search people.mcdonalds.co.uk / people.mcdonalds.ie then head to 'early careers' to find out which work experience placements are available. Keep checking back, even if at first there are no placements suitable - restaurants will post new ones regularly throughout the year.

**2 Start the application.** During the placement application, our AI chatbot is on hand to guide you through each stage.**3 Complete the characteristics test.** Next up is the characteristics test - nothing to worry about, just a quick way for us to learn a little more about you and how you would work alongside our Crew Members. There are no right or wrong answers!**4 Fill out the rest of the application.** The test results will appear instantly, then it's on to the remaining few sections, adding in the kind of info you'd normally find on a CV.**5 We'll be in touch...** We will review the application and invite successful applicants for an interview.**6 Confirm the interview time and date.** If for some reason you need to rearrange the interview, return to your conversation with the AI chatbot and they will support you to do this. **What should you expect from the interview?** In-person work experience interviews are informal and will take place either in-person or over the phone. It's worth taking some time beforehand to prepare a few answers to questions like:

- 1 What do you hope to learn from this experience?
- 2 Which accomplishments are you most proud of?
- 3 What does respect mean to you?

**7 Wait to hear from the restaurant.** If all goes well, you will be contacted after the interview to offer you a placement!**8 Read the pre-placement information carefully.** Once the placement dates are agreed and confirmed, you will be sent some essential pre-placement information, such as arrival times and uniform. Make sure you read it carefully and contact us with any questions. It's also worth letting us know if you have any additional support needs.**9 Start the work experience placement.** We hope your application is successful, and that you really enjoy both the placement and acquiring the new career skills, whatever path you decide to take.

We hope to see you in one of our restaurants soon!

Good Luck!