

Work Experience Career Ambassador Pack

Are you looking to offer your students exciting work experience opportunities where they can develop their essential skills in a real-life workplace? Our new McDonald's work experience programme does exactly that.

This immersive, in-person opportunity is open to people aged 14+ and invites them to experience the world of work at one of our busy restaurants. Young people will develop their communication, teamwork, goal setting and leadership skills, as they find out what it's like in today's working world.

This pack gives you everything you need to get a flavour of what's involved in a work experience placement, and how to showcase this opportunity to students, parents/carers and colleagues.

In this Career Ambassador Pack you will find...

What is McDonald's Taste for Work?	2
Why have McDonald's introduced work experience?	2
What can young people expect from their placement?	3
The skills young people will develop on their placement	3
Safeguarding young people - our commitment	5
How it meets work experience and careers education guidance across nations	5
How to share with your colleagues and students	6
Supporting your students' applications	6
Helping your students apply for a placement	7

In-person work experience



What is McDonald's

Taste for Work?

Our Taste for Work programme is all about giving young people exposure to those skills employers really value. We provide exciting opportunities to discover what it's like in the workplace and develop essential skills that can take you wherever you want to go in life.

McDonald's Taste for Work has been designed to incorporate the **Skills Builder Essential Skills Framework** (currently used within **80% of UK Secondary Schools and Colleges**), that supports people of all ages to develop the essential skills needed for life and work.

Our work experience placements support young people to develop these essential employability skills in a fun, stimulating environment. Taking part in these immersive, real-world experiences at one of our busy restaurants is a brilliant introduction to the workplace, surrounded by supportive staff.

Each placement lasts either five or 10 days, depending on the restaurant and the location. We'll make this clear on the job advert beforehand.



Please note work experience placements are unpaid.



Teachers and parents can access our exciting Taste for Work classroom challenges for free. **Search 'Taste for Work' to explore the programme website and discover various classroom challenges and our work experience offering.**

Why has McDonald's

introduced work experience?

Short answer? We've got ambitious plans. We're already one of the largest employers of young people, and we're just getting started. Our mission is to help people get the skills they need to build confidence, achieve and succeed, wherever their career path takes them. Over the years, we've seen millions of people take their first steps into the world of work with us. And we believe that the best place to learn is still hands-on, in person, in a real work environment. We also believe Taste for Work helps us connect with our communities, by providing an inclusive, supportive workplace for all.



Member of
Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP

What can young people expect from their placement?

Going ‘behind the scenes’ at McDonald’s is always intriguing. As well as seeing how a McDonald’s really works, your students will get to develop their own skillsets from one of the largest and most diverse employers in the world. The skills they will be developing on their placement are used everyday by our team (we call them Crew) and are valued by employers, whatever job your students may take in the future.

On their first day, participants will be given a role in a key part of the restaurant to support their fellow Crew Members and keep the restaurant running smoothly. At the end of each day, there’s time for them to reflect on what they’ve learned and how to use these new skills to progress.

Throughout their Taste for Work placement, they’ll be guided and supported by one of our leadership team. They’ll use their handy **Participant Booklet** to complete tasks and track their progress throughout their time with us.

Skills have been carefully chosen from the Skills Builder Essential Skills Framework, backed by the UK government statutory guidance. These specific capabilities can also be found in best practice guidance from careers organisations across the UK and Ireland, including Careers and Enterprise company and the Gatsby Foundation.

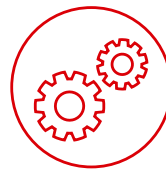
The essential skills young people will develop include:



Communication
speaking & listening



Leadership

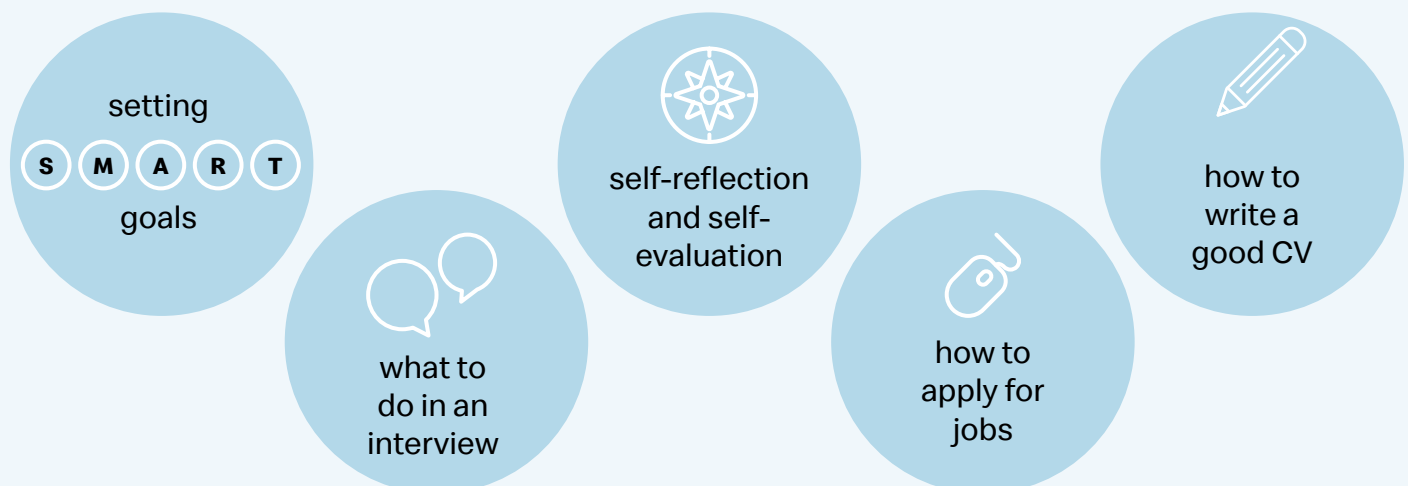


Teamwork






Planning

They will also be introduced to a variety of employability skills that will help them set and achieve their future career goals. This includes:



Example work experience placement timetable

A great way to get an idea of what's involved is to check out this example timetable for day one of the placement. Young people will receive a timetable outlining each day's activities in their **Participant Booklet**.

Time	Activity	Led by...
Morning 	Welcome Meeting, induction and tour (1 hour): This will help young people settle in, know where everything is, and what to expect. Food and Health & Safety training (1 hour): This will be online. It'll take young people through key health and safety requirements.	Restaurant/ Business Manager, People Manager or Shift Leader. A manager and/ or the point of contact.
Morning break (15 mins): Participants will have a short break before continuing with tasks.		
Morning	Goal setting (30 mins): Young people use their Participant Booklet to set goals for their placement using the SMART technique.	The participant, with support from their point of contact.
	Lunch break (1 hr): The participant has a one-hour break for lunch.	
Afternoon 	Restaurant experience: Young people work in the first of three areas, rotating through all of them during their placement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Production – young people make our delicious food as part of the kitchen team 2. Customer areas – young people help keep the restaurant clean, speak with customers and help at service points 3. Service – young people interact with customers by taking or presenting orders 	The participant, with support from the Crew.
Afternoon break (15 mins): Participants will have a short break before continuing with tasks.		
	Developing essential skills (30 mins-1hr): Young people have time to reflect on the skills they developed during the day. There are prompt questions in their booklet to help them. End of day check-in (15 mins): Young people have a short check-in with their point of contact to reflect on how their day went.	The participant, with support from their point of contact. The participant's point of contact.

How does McDonald's safeguard young people?

Nothing is more important than the safety and wellbeing of our staff, and the young people entrusted to us on work experience placements.

- McDonald's has a robust policy in place, including regular staff training, to make sure everyone is safe in our restaurants.
- Staff know how to report something if it arises. If a situation does occur, the school will be informed immediately.
- All work experience participants will receive specific Health and Safety training, plus instruction and mentoring from employees to make sure they're supported throughout the placement.
- Young people will receive their own **Participant Booklet** which makes it clear who they can go to and how they can raise any concerns they have with confidence.

How does Taste for Work help you meet the necessary work experience requirements?

England & Isle of White & Jersey

Gatsby Benchmarks: Meaningful encounters with employers and employees (GB5); and experiences of workplaces (GB6).

Northern Ireland

Learning for Life and Work (LLW) framework: Practical experiences and employability.

Republic of Ireland

Transition Year Programme: Work experience required. One and two week placements are available.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme: One week's work experience required.

Scotland

Developing the Young Workforce (DYW): A relevant, challenging, enjoyable and appropriate learning experience within the contemporary workplace.

Wales

Careers and Work-Related Experiences (CWRE): Have career and work-related experiences.

Isle of Man

Essentials for Learning Curriculum: Work experience placement with a focus on skills.



How to share with your colleagues and students

We've got you covered! Here are a few ideas for sharing the Taste for Work experience with students and colleagues:

- Use the information above to share the benefits of an in-person work experience placement at McDonald's.
- Host an assembly for students, explaining what Taste for Work is, and emphasising the skills and experience they'd gain.
- Share with relevant tutors and heads of year when their students are applying for work experience.
- Share with Food Tech and Hospitality teachers who may know of students who expressed an interest in a catering career. Remember, Taste for Work has been designed with any career path in mind.

We have included information on the following page that provides step-by-step guidance on how to find, apply and start a work experience placement with McDonald's. You may wish to print this and share it with your students, your colleagues or reference it yourself in future. The choice is yours!

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 applicants 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 the person applying and how they 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 the interview needs to be rearranged, return to the conversation with the AI chatbot to do this. 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 think about and prepare 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, applicants will be contacted after the interview to offer them a placement!**8 Read the pre-placement information carefully.** Once the placement dates are agreed and confirmed, applicants will be sent some essential pre-placement information, such as arrival times and uniform. Read this carefully and contact us with any questions. It's also worth letting us know if any additional support needs are required.**9 Start the work experience placement.** We hope applications are successful and that our work experience placements gives people the skills and confidence they need to take the next step in their career, whatever path they decide to choose!

Good Luck!