

## QUB Inclusive Employment Scheme

Our "Inclusive Employment Scheme" was launched by the then Minister for Employment and Learning Dr Stephen Farry on 29 May 2014.

The scheme is run in conjunction with NIUSE NI Union of Supported Employment and this year we have placed 9 persons with a disability or long term condition in various schools and directorates throughout Queen's.

This programme is a great opportunity for those who have been unable to get work, or have had to leave work because of a disability, to develop skills and gain valuable work experience.

The scheme has been identified as an example of best practice by the [Department for Communities](#) and the [Equality Commission for Northern Ireland](#).

It has involved Queen's staff working closely alongside organisations such as [Disability Action](#), [The Cedar Foundation](#) and [Ulster Supported Employment Limited](#) (USEL), [Action Mental Health](#), and [The Orchardville Society](#), who provide invaluable help and support both during the offer process, and through the placement itself.

Feedback from participants on the scheme is below:

"I will be disappointed when it ends but I am much more confident in my abilities now and less scared of the world of work." **Carole Catling - placement in QUB Research and Enterprise Directorate.**

"I found the placement gave me a chance to meet new people, deliver new skills and be creative by allowing me to bring my own ideas to the role." **Benjamin Kinnear - placement in QUB Telecommunications (switchboard office).**

"I have loved being in three different areas meeting lots of staff within Queen's. Thank you for letting me part of the work placement experience." **Grace Hamilton - placement in 3 different Human Resources functions.**

Further positive feedback has been received from Terry Parks, Head of the Disability Employment Service in the [Department for Communities](#) who referred to the University scheme as:

"..a great example of partnership working between a government body, the local disability sector and a major employer, who in this instance, just happen one of our most prestigious education establishments... the staff at Queen's, through the HR team and the respective schools throughout the university, have provided the opportunities and in-work support that will really enhance the employment prospects of many disabled people - and for that, we are all very grateful."

For further insight into the Inclusive Employment Scheme, please click on the testimonies provided by previous scheme participants [Jamie Davison](#) and [Suzie Leech](#).

William Houppy was one of our earliest participants on the Inclusive Employment Scheme. Following his placement he applied for a Technician position in Queen's and was successful in being appointed to the role.

