## The Insight Programme School of Psychology employability programme

#### What is the Insight Programme?

The Insight Programme was launched in Summer 2013 by the School of Psychology at Queen's, as an employability programme for our Psychology undergraduates. The Insight Programme spans all three years of the degree and seeks to build the experience and confidence of the student from school through to work place.

# Year 1: raising awareness

In Year 1, students work on time management, CV writing, and communication skills (written and oral). They are exposed to information about a variety of careers open to Psychology graduates.

## Year 2: building skills

In Year 2, students complete a taught employability module which helps them to examine their vocational interests, analyse their strengths and development areas, and to reflect on the development of their CV.

### Year 3: putting into practice

In year 3, students have the opportunity to apply for an optional workbased module which allows them to work with a graduate employer for 15-20 days. This module is assessed by portfolio creation, reflective diary and a final presentation.

#### The objectives of the work placement are:

- to provide the student with an insight into the world of work before graduation
- · to allow the student to apply their Psychology experience and skills to an employer's
- · business, department or specific project
- to agree opportunities for feedback on their performance
- to improve networking opportunities for the student
- to encourage students to reflect on their skill base and future career aspirations

#### The student experience:

#### Roisin Magee



Roisin Magee

I applied for a place on the placement module as I wanted to experience how the psychological knowledge and skills I have acquired through my degree could be applied to a real-life business context. Due to the current economic climate, competition for graduate posts is fierce, so I thought gaining experience in this way would be an invaluable addition to my CV. During my report writing tasks, I utilised my statistical and analytical skills and was able to review the literature sufficiently. I would definitely recommend the placement to future students, however, I would stress the amount of commitment needed to fulfil the demands of the module, and e.g. the engagement requires you to attend the workplace for approx. 2 days per week with additional time needed to complete the coursework. I feel the opportunity has strengthened my confidence

in my ability to contribute significantly to the goals of a company and the job market as a whole.

#### What organisations offer work placements to our Level 3 Psychology students?

Private sector	Public sector	Third sector
Axiom Ipsos MORI Lyle Bailie Grant Thornton Hughes Insurance Carecall Adoreboard Sensum	Invest NI NI Probation Board British Council Driver & Vehicle Agency Belfast Education & Library Board The Link Centre Queen's University Belfast	Action Cancer Alzheimers Society Friends of the Earth Employers For Childcare Cancer Focus Co-operation Ireland Guide Dogs NI Upper Springfield Development Trust Mindwise Surestart Happy Faces Start 360 Crann go Beatha Conway Education Centre Crossroads Caring for Carers Engage with Age Linking Generations NI Now project The Rainbow Project Shelter NI Stepping Stones Springfield Charitable Association

### What types of projects are the Psychology students involved with?

Examples of projects completed by placement students to date include:

- Evaluating whether a new service is viable for an organisation
- Designing a customer feedback survey
- · Developing advertising campaigns
- Leading employee satisfaction surveys
- Engaging in cross-community collaboration projects
- Producing market research for client organisations
- Developing a competency framework for managers
- Contributing to ISO (& similar industry standard) submissions
- Creating process mapping
- Conducting recruitment research
- Producing reports and literature reviews to enhance tendering opportunities
- Leading on a training audit for staff

To learn more about the Insight Programme at the School of Psychology, please visit:

http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/psy/StudyingAtTheSchool/UG/Insight/

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