



# Micro-placements: accessible work experience

Debra Jackson

[d.jackson@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:d.jackson@coventry.ac.uk)





# About me

Debra Jackson

Worked in Higher Education since 2001

Add+vantage Programme Manager at Your SU

15 years + in Disability Support working with Neurodivergent students

Also, I love cats!



# What is a micro-placement?

Your SU approach

Unpaid 20-hour placements

Flexible approach which can be completed weekly or in 3 days depending on student choice.

Usually completed within one semester as linked to Add+vantage modules.

Based in schools, or voluntary sector (which includes Your SU).

Specific projects to gain real life-work experience.



# What we currently offer...



## Volunteering

- Support a charity or non-profit or social enterprise.
- Students choose their own organisation and role.
- Placements are sourced through Your SU or our partners.



## SU projects

- This placement involves a student supporting projects or events.
- Based in a SU department; finance, marketing, education, activities, skills, business support, marketing and communications.
- Placements are allocated dependant on students' skill and improvement areas.



## Schools

- Partners with 20 Coventry Primary, Secondary and SEN schools.
- Work experience with children and young people.
- Not just for future teachers.
- Placements include:
  - Student tutoring
  - International language
  - Reading support
  - Extra-curricular activity



# Current placements:

- Photography student working with a local charity to improve their marketing materials.
- Geography students supporting the SU sustainability projects.

# Benefits for organisations



- Increased provision
- Diversifies workforce
- Adds new skills and knowledge
- Raises awareness of the organisation
- Community development
- Opportunity to offer new services
- Generates ideas



# Benefits for students

- Valuable work experience.
- Practical knowledge of work including processes.
- Introduces alternate career opportunities.
- Improves their confidence and resilience, especially when noticing development and getting positive feedback.
- Real-world skills development and application.
- Development of skills, knowledge and experience.
- Opportunity to build network.
- Increases social capital.
- Reference for CV and job applications.



# Student groups who benefit from this type of placement?

- Students with caring responsibilities
- Part-time students
- Disabled students
- Students who are working including apprenticeship





# Student feedback

- Value practical experience for CV or job applications.
- Volunteering has helped me know how to support my local community.
- I have enjoyed getting work experience and applying/ learning a new skill in a working environment.
- Something different in their timetable.
- Work related referee

# Thank you

Debra Jackson [d.jackson@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:d.jackson@coventry.ac.uk)  
[yoursu.org](http://yoursu.org)



# Find out more:

ISE (2001) [5 reasons why more employers are running micro-placements.](#)

