



The Oxfordshire Supported Internship is a partnership between:

- Activate Learning
- Abingdon and Witney College
- Oxfordshire Employment



Who Can Participate? Young people aged 16-25 with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. Supported internships offer real work experience and skill-building, usually lasting 6-12 months, with most time spent in the workplace.

What Will You Learn?

Participants will learn job-specific skills in the workplace and demonstrate their value to employers. Traditional learning, such as English and Maths, may be included where appropriate. Check out our [Supported Internship \(SI\) info pages](#)

Pay and Qualifications:

You may be offered pay or achieve a work qualification, but every internship is personalised, and not all offer paid opportunities.

Employee Spotlight: Joel Esemuze

Joel took part in SEND Live 2026 work experience helping capturing video content. For this edition of Employee Spotlight, I spoke with Joel and his mother Joy about how it felt to be behind the camera!

Q1: What was your favourite task to do? my favourite part was filming, I felt important!

Q2: Was there anything tricky about work experience? Were you assisted with anything? Handling the equipment was fine, Dennis was always close by if I needed help. The camera was a bit heavy, but I managed.

Q3: You and your mum seem to have a wonderful relationship, was it important for you to have her by your side? On the day my mom supported me. She made sure I understood what I was meant to do and helped me all day to capture all the scenes. I have a PA, but when I have something important to do, I like my mom to support me as she knows me better than anyone. I am less anxious when she is around.



Within Oxfordshire 60% of interns go into paid employment

SEND Live 2026 Highlights Video

If you are considering a career in the events world and need some real-life experience, contact lydia.martin@oxfordshire.gov.uk for more information in how to get involved.

View the 2026 event highlights video: [SEND LIVE 2026 - Highlights](#)

New SEND Youth Forum Hot Topic Boardgame announcement!

We've recently created a [Hot Topic Board Game](#), which will be hosted on [OXME](#) and used regularly in our SEND Youth Forum satellites. Building on the Mental Health and Wellbeing board game developed earlier this year, it will form part of a wider series covering different topics. This new version of the game focuses on careers & employment. It covers a wide range of questions relating to: workplace etiquette, interviews and asks individuals to think about their potential future. Going forward, we hope to focus the next boardgame on Online Safety & Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Reverse Recruitment Fair coming on 26th November!

On the 26th of November, there is a Reverse Recruitment Fair event at the Kassam Stadium. A Reverse Recruitment Fair turns the usual recruitment model around. Instead of employers promoting vacancies, young people lead the conversation by sharing their skills, interests, and ambitions.

If this sounds like something beneficial to you, register your interest here [Reverse Recruitment Fair - register your interest](#)

Oxfordshire Employment Event and My Menti Meter Overview

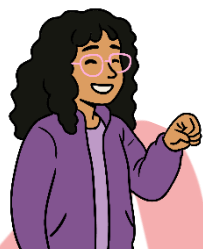
I recently presented at the Oxfordshire Employment event, and I was lucky enough to share my story and give updates on my role. I asked the delegates to complete my Mentimeter that I created to gain feedback on trying new and creative ways to share my newsletter and reach even more people across Oxfordshire.

I have gained some great feedback and have a far better understanding of what readers may want:

- **Six** people said they wanted either YouTube/Podcast content or animation content. Clearly there is a need for connection with SEND that is being underserved. Stay tuned for more information soon.
- **A few** individuals also highlighted the want for diary entries and that could be how my future "Final Thoughts" looks going forward.

A Final Thought

Sharing my story at the celebration event meant a lot to me. It showed me how far I have come and how important it is to keep speaking up.



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Updates to my role

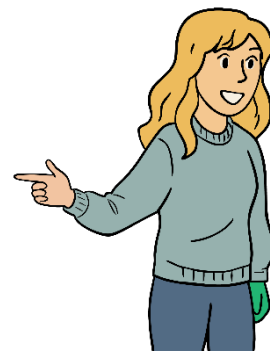
I have recently moved into a new role as **Senior Supported Internships and SEND Media Worker**, which I am really excited about, and I am looking forward to developing these ideas further.

Interview Tips from Sarah Steel, Travel Assessment Officer

😊 Make notes of some of the key things that could be helpful to remember, for example the Values and Mission of a company are always worth knowing.

😊 I condense the information that is important to know and layout under subheadings and in bullet point form as much as possible. Something that is general like Safeguarding can be used for more than one job too.

😊 In my interview, I try to think about me doing the job and that often gives me inspiration. I can struggle to visualise what it will be like doing a role, especially if there are many different aspects to it.



Thanks to Sarah Steel, for sharing these helpful tips!

SEND Youth Forum Updates – What we've been up to!

In June 2026, the SEND Youth Forum attended a session at Oxfordshire Museum. We gave them our Seal of Approval. The SEND Youth Forum had a tour of the museum, shared their views, and reviewed the venues access standards, influencing change. The feedback gathered through the SEND Youth Forum and the new satellite groups will be extremely valuable going forward, find out more about the work we are doing by clicking this link: [SYF Updates Summer 2026.pdf](#)



My next steps

In my next issue, I plan to share more of my post-interview reflections with readers through a series of progress review-style diary articles. Detailing what I feel went well, what question I could have included or things I thought I could've done better. I need to be a bit more patient in conversation, with others and myself. I hope for some of my future editions to feature a video interview, as part of the advice given through my recent feedback. I have at least three people in mind who I think would offer great insight. If you think you can contribute to a future newsletter please contact Maisy.Gallagher-Horwood@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

For more information: [please contact the Oxfordshire Employment Team.](#)



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