

MANCHESTER  
1824

The University of Manchester

# Supporting the Supporters:

## *Making Careers Advice work*

Janet Willis

The University of Manchester Careers Service



# Outline of today's session

- Introductions and your thoughts
- The context: why we support Care Leavers (the *why*)
- Careers support for Care Leavers at The University of Manchester lifecycle (the *how*)



**Go to: [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and  
enter code: 71 06 55**



# Context

- Levelling the playing field
- Developing capital – social, cultural, financial
- Campus capital and confidence

## **Our work with Care Leavers**

As part of our WP commitment, we offer enhanced Care Leaver support:

- 1:1 careers meetings with named Careers Consultant throughout time at university and up to 2 years post graduation
- Support in accessing the Careers Service offer
- Initiatives and targeted activities

# WP Employability strategy

- Support throughout the **student life cycle** -- starting from pre-entry, throughout their academic studies, and after graduation.
- Increase uptake of **work experience** ... and help to improve **global awareness**.
- **Identify and collaborate with employers and alumni** committed to improving social mobility.

## Initiatives and targeted activities

### 1. [Work Experience Bursary Scheme](#)

- Gaining work experience is crucial but can be expensive
- Break the cycle of “Can’t afford to build up work experience” via intervention



The advertisement features the University of Manchester logo in the top left corner. In the center, a stylized line drawing of a person in a suit stands atop a stack of five coins. The bottom half of the advertisement is a solid purple band containing white text. The text reads: 'WORK EXPERIENCE BURSARIES', 'APPLY NOW FOR UP TO £1000 TO FUND YOUR OPPORTUNITY', and the URL 'bit.ly/workexperiencebursary' with a small signature icon below it.

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## GRADUATE JOBS IN MANCHESTER

MANCHESTER GRADUATE  
TALENT

[manchester.ac.uk/mgt](http://manchester.ac.uk/mgt)

IMAGINE YOUR FUTURE

CAREERS SERVICE

## 2. Manchester Graduate Talent

- Paid graduate level internship roles in Greater Manchester for University of Manchester graduates/university leavers
- Roles available with the University and external employers



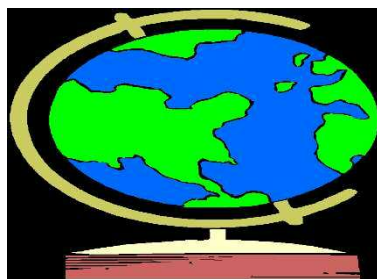
### 3. Student Experience Internship scheme (SEI)

- Vacancies within the University and social responsibility organisations
- WP focused plus working with several key academic Schools



## 4. Career Mentoring & Global Graduates

Manchester Gold mentoring:  
being relaunched with focus on  
Widening Participation students



32 students visit alumni/recruiters in: Hong Kong, London/Paris, New York, San Francisco, Singapore, Toronto

Majority of places on the Global Graduates programme allocated to WP students.

# Student Insight weeks

← Careers Service

← Jobs and experience

✓ Internships

First year spring internships

Student insight weeks  
Manchester

Student Experience  
Internships for penultimate  
years

Find your own internship or  
work experience

## Student Insight weeks - Autumn and Spring

Your first year is a great time to start building skills and exploring different career options. One way to do this is via insight days or weeks. They may happen at any time but usually during vacation periods.

Autumn & Spring Insight Week in Manchester for undergraduate students organised by the Careers Service.

Apply for an Insight Week, develop your employability skills and gain an insight into a particular sector or industry of your choice.

The insight will be an unpaid work experience and work shadowing opportunity to provide you exposure to a work environment. A short

Contact the insight week team

Tel: 0161 275 2828

[workexperience@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:workexperience@manchester.ac.uk)

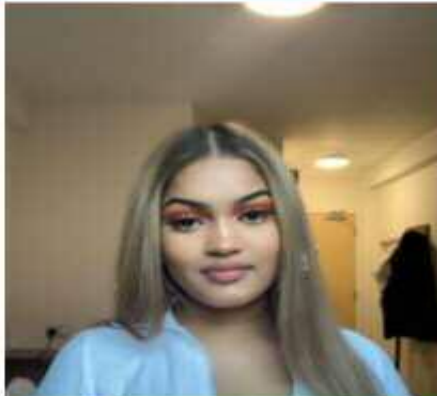
See also

[Spring weeks & insight days  
provided by companies](#)

# Collaboration with partner organisations throughout the student lifecycle

- Onboarding – pre-entry and arrival support (Success 4 Life, Care Leaver Ambassador network meetings)
- Working with external organisations to support care leavers (e.g. [Upreach](#))
- Transition support for students pre-graduation

## Associate Profiles - First Year



### Roheema Yasmin | LLB Law | Graduation Year 2022

**Engagement highlights: 6 Practice Online Tests | 4 Application Reviews | 2 Mock Interviews | 22 Visits to my.upReach | 70% Springboard Completion (Silver Award)**

Since starting university and the upReach Rise programme, Roheema has not only taken but made the most of every available opportunity, as a testament of her consistent ambition to develop and succeed. From achieving Silver in the Law springboard to recently being selected as Project Coordinator for The University of Manchester Pro Bono Society, she continues to grow in confidence and demonstrate both self-awareness and belief. Skills Workshops & 1-to-1s have enabled her to explore her ambitions and seek out extracurricular opportunities, building the skills and experience that is necessary for a career at the Bar.

*"I've had an **immense** amount of support with regards to **application tips and advice**. Alex has provided me with the STAR technique when answering competency questions and strengths based questions. As a result, I have been able to get onto programmes such as the Sutton Trust Pathways to Law Plus Programme and the Inner Temple Pegasus Access and Support Scheme. I have attended **Skills Workshops**, including 'How to Build my Brand', which have made me become **self-aware of my skills**, how to apply them and how to present myself online. I also really enjoy receiving **the upReach weekly email updates about opportunities, schemes and programmes**. These inform me of wider opportunities and the support available in different sectors. Moreover, the **1-1 check ins** with my Programme Coordinator are **highly reassuring and motivating**. Alex is a fantastic and passionate Programme Coordinator **who has helped me so much with advice and managing stress to balance my university life**. She definitely **provides a boost in my productivity** when I speak to her because **she genuinely wants me to achieve and excel in my career path**."*

## Associate Profiles - First Year



### Luke Collinson | MEng Mechanical Engineering | Graduation Year 2024

**Engagement highlights: 5 Skills Workshops | 1 Insight Day | 3 Application Reviews  
| 50% Springboard Completion (Bronze Award)**

Joining the upReach programme after his foundation year, Luke has accelerated his personal and professional development as the result of attending regular, goal-orientated 1-to-1s with his Programme Coordinator. Learning about leadership theory in the Spring Skills Workshops has increased his self-awareness and skills-development through extracurricular activity with the Engineering: Volunteering & Outreach Society, as well as prestigious work experience with the Civil Service. Focused application reviews and mock interviews have enabled Luke to hone his professionalism and communication skills, culminating in achieving the Engineering Leaders Scholarship from the Royal Academy of Engineering. Luke also became one of three undergraduates nationally to win The Sir Ralph Robins Engineering Scholarship.

*"upReach has helped me be **more confident and knowledgeable** when it comes to applying for internships, awards and careers opportunities. One way in which I have benefited from this programme was when I applied for an Engineering Leaders Scholarship from the Royal Academy of Engineering. This scholarship required me to submit an essay, video presentation, phone interview and Zoom video interview. Alex **helped me prepare for each part of the process holistically**. For the application form Alex read over what I'd done and gave me **feedback**. Before the interviews I was invited to **Skills Workshops** which gave me **more knowledge** on different **leadership theories, commercial awareness and presentation and communication skills**. Additionally, a **friendly phone call** before my interview helped calm me down and give me the prep I needed. As a result, I was able to have very in-depth discussions confidently with my interviewer which in part led me to getting it. Another way in which this programme has helped me is by **increasing my industry awareness of different sectors**. I was offered the opportunity to attend the **KPMG Insight Day in Manchester** and learn about Professional Services. I learnt useful transferable tips from the day such as incorporating a company's CSR into your application. My time with upReach has been **exceptionally helpful in giving me the best start to my future career**. It has provided me with lots of useful opportunities to explore different careers options. I genuinely hope that more places become available to students as it is an amazing scheme."*

# **How can we collaborate to support care leaver students through their higher education journey?**

Please email any thoughts/reflections on this to:

[janet.k.willis@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:janet.k.willis@manchester.ac.uk)

# Conversations with your students

- If you are advising students about Higher Education, please encourage them to connect with University Careers Services at Open Day events to ask:
- What support do you offer Care Leavers?
- Is there any financial support available for unpaid work experience/travel/accommodation/caring expenses?
- Do you offer a mentoring programme?
- Are there any paid work opportunities on campus?
- What support can I get after graduation?



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# Questions

