Project SEARCH Newsletter:
August Edition: Welcoming interns
2016-17 issue

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Welcome Message from the Project SEARCH University of Aberdeen onsite Team.

Welcome to a new year of Project SEARCH, this month we visited the botanic gardens as our new interns for 2016-17’s second engagement event and they had their first week in the classroom. Written by Lisa Mant

Welcoming Eleanor, who has joined our team as our part-time Job Coach

My Name is Eleanor Davison. My Favourite Colour is Blue because it remind me of the sea & sky. What I am looking forward to most about my job with Project SEARCH are meeting the interns, getting to know them & seeing how they get on at their first internships.

As a Project SEARCH University of Aberdeen tradition, the new Interns started their year by adding their handprints to the Project SEARCH family tree as the 4th cohort of Interns.
On Wednesday 24th of August, our new interns joined us for a tour of the Botanic Gardens, lead by Mark Paterson, Curator of the Cruickshank Botanic Gardens.

Mark engaged the interns in a walk around the labyrinth and described the history of the garden, before continuing the activities the garden. Mark, staff and interns took part in icebreaker activities to get to know one another. One in particular was where everyone had to pick a flower or leaf that appealed to them, then present it to the rest of the group and discuss why they liked it. Everyone ended the tour with a picnic in the informal picnic area, better prepared for their first day the following week, knowing one another a little better.
My name is Aaron Murphy, I am aged 19 and live in Turriff, Aberdeenshire. I came from Inspire Academy. I enjoy playing computer games, cooking & gardening.

My name is Aiden Hutchison, I am aged 17 and live in Aberdeen City. I came from NESCOL Aberdeen Campus. My hobbies are going to cinema with friends & watching movies.

My name is Callum Davidson, I am age 16 and live in Aberdeen City. I came from Hazelhead Academy. I like athletics, cars & football Xbox games.

My name is Emily Dawson, I am aged 17 and I live in Bridge of Don, Aberdeen City. I came from Bridge of Don Academy. I like Anime shows & making YouTube videos.

My name is Erin Webster, I am aged 21 and live in Westhill, Aberdeenshire. My Hobbies is creative writing and drawing.

My name is Jordan Foreman, I am aged 16 and live in Aberdeen City and I came from St Machar Academy. I like making YouTube videos & cooking.
My name is **Keelan Jamieson**, I am aged 17 and I live in Kemnay, Aberdeenshire. I came from NESCOL Aberdeen Campus. I like films, sea life & nature.

My name is **Matthew Goodband**, I am aged 16 and I live in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. I came from Fraserburgh Academy, my hobbies are playing games on my PS4 & music.

My name is **Owen Griffin**, I am aged 16 and I live in Banchory, Aberdeenshire. I came from Banchory Academy. My hobbies are that I enjoy exercising in the gym, going hiking & being a member of ATC.

My name is **Sam Wiseman**, I am aged 18 and I live in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. I came from NESCOL Fraserburgh Campus. My hobbies are that I enjoy playing my PlayStation & Sports.

My name is **Zoe Karpinski**, I am aged 19 and live in Inverbervie near Montrose Aberdeenshire. I came from the North East Scotland College in Aberdeen. I like watching anime and reading manga books.

My Name is **Sean Diack**, I am aged 16 and I live in Garthdee, Aberdeen City. I Came from Harlaw Academy, I am willing to do any of the internships available. I like chocolate & Pepsi, going swimming and playing video games.
Monday 29th of August: The interns got to know each other with a selection of Ice Breakers. Interns spent some time creating their own code of conduct for the year and then went for a tour of the campus and visited Hub. Intern’s took part in teambuilding activities and competed over who could build the tallest spaghetti and marshmallow tower.

Tuesday 30th of August: After a success team building on Monday, Interns took part in another activity, where teams had to build a bridge over two tables, using only newspaper and selotape. Bridges had to be able to stand on their own and hold the weight of a tennis ball. Also, Amanda Woods from the University’s Training and Development team, visited the Interns to deliver a presentation about the University of Aberdeen’s history. Interns also took part in a quiz to see what they could remember from the presentation. Interns visited more buildings around the University before taking part in a scavenger hunt around the campus.

Wednesday 31th of August: The Interns gained access to the IT services and spent some time setting up their new PC accounts, Project SEARCH email and joined Dropbox. Interns completed their One Page Profiles and began to make their “No words” posters, depicting some of their hobbies and interests, before presenting them to the rest of the class.
**Thursday 1st of September:** With their new computer access, the Interns were able to start their new Project SEARCH CV’s and make copies of all their certificates. Interns continued to visit various different internships around the campus to help them decide what areas they might like to work throughout the year. Interns were visited by Laura & Andrew from Inspire, who talked about Inspire and what the organisation does. There was a large discussion around participation in this years Fire walk down at the beach.

**Friday 2nd of September:** To conclude the Intern’s first week at Project SEARCH, Interns were able to complete their CV’s and “My Strengths” activities from the My World of Work website. As they now know the way around the University, Interns took part in an activity to plan a tour around the campus to showcase all of the internships they had learned about. Interns ended the week by writing their goal letters to themselves, setting out what they hope to have achieved by the end of the project SEARCH year. These letters have been hidden away now so they can be given to the Interns at the end of year.

**Next issue**
- Orientation Weeks 2 & 3
- Absafe Visit
- Skills Development
- Scotland Visit
- Music Event
- Family Pizza Night
- Intern’s First Internship
- Worldhost Training