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Hi everyone, I hope you have settled well into the new year. Our Interns have now all jumped into their 2nd internship rotations around the University. Before doing so, the interns spent a workshop week in the classroom and visiting Skills Development Scotland and Eden Scott, as well as taking part in Skype video conferences with their Project SEARCH Kansas counterparts.

By Lisa Mant
Workshop Week Activities

Interns visit to Skills Development Scotland

Interns visited Skills Development Scotland on 8th January, so that Natasha and Lena could deliver a training workshop on recruitment processes. Working in two groups, Interns got to play the part of the employer, trying to select the right candidate for the job. Interns also took part in a personality quiz find out how their own personality suited to a variety of jobs. The Interns found it enjoyable and interesting.

On Friday Afternoon: 8th of January

Skyping Project SEARCH Kansas: interview skills with counterpart Interns.

Interns had the opportunity to take part in a video chat with Project SEARCH Interns from the Newton Medical Centre, Kansas US. This has been a weekly occurrence since the beginning of the term, each week Interns take it in turns to practice asking and answering a new interview question.
Eden Scott CV Workshops and Mock Interview Demonstrations.

Friday 15th of January and Friday 22nd of January

Over the course of two weeks, Interns visited the offices of Eden Scott to receive some hints and tips on their CV’s, as well as witness a mock interview between two Eden Scott staff. A couple of interns were also given the opportunity to take part in a mock interview themselves. We would like to thank all at Eden Scott for their continued support of Project SEARCH, as well as useful advice for the interns. We would particularly like to thank Lucy, Rachel and Rachael for their time and advice during these sessions. All at Project SEARCH look forward to working together again soon.
Internship 2: Work Sites

Electrical and Maintenance Department

Audio Visual Department

The Sir Duncan Rice Library Assistant

Marketing Internship

Catering Assistant

Music Administration Assistant

Rocking Horse Nursery: New Internship
**Project SEARCH**

**Mentor Training Day**

On Friday 22th of January, Project SEARCH provided training to new potential Mentors for this year's Interns. Kevin Forrest from Inspire delivered Learning Disability Awareness Training, and Amanda Woods from the University of Aberdeen delivered training on Mentoring. After the training session was complete, some Mentors were able to stay for a bite to eat and meet the Interns. We would like to thank all who attended the Mentor Training Day for your ongoing support.

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**Intern of the Month**

Name: Dale Allan

Reasons:

- He has made the biggest improvement in our record of stones
- He volunteered to do the mock interview at Eden Scott
- He has done hard work at the internship
- He guided and directed people into the building on our Mentor Training Day.
For the first time, parents from the 2015/2016 Intern Cohort were invited to join the existing Parents Group from the 2014/2015 Intern Cohort on Wednesday 27th January. Those who were able to attend would like to share their findings from the evening.

"We joined the parent support group for last year's interns on that night and thought some of you might it useful to hear about it. The notice for the meeting was very short, but this perhaps reflects the informality of the group. We were welcomed by a small group of last year's parents and an informal discussion ensued about what the interns were doing; successes, challenges, possible sources of help etc. Even in the short time spent with the others, we learned new things and were encouraged to hear of the progress of many of the interns from last year in terms of employment and independence. It is a very useful forum to share experiences and completely non-threatening. We sat around a large table with coffees/drinks and "blethered". One of last year's interns joined us later and was happy to talk about his current job. We would certainly encourage others to come along to future meetings if they are able to do so."

Written by Ben Laird’s Parents: William and Shirley Laird.
Coming Up Next Month

Project SEARCH Intern Recruitment 2016-17

Project SEARCH Open Day
Wednesday 10th February 2016 from 10:30am to 12:30pm

Are you Interested or know someone who might be interested in Project SEARCH for 2016-17?

Where?
Project SEARCH Classroom
King’s Pavilion, University of Aberdeen.
To register your interest contact:
lisa.mant@inspiremail.org.uk

Former Intern Visit 4th of February
Interns Manual Handling Training: 9th February
Bucksburn Academy Careers Fair 25th February.