An example of a successful intern is Michael. Michael came to Project SEARCH at the age of 18, after struggling throughout his school career and being unable to attain any qualifications despite the fact that he was a bright and intelligent young man. He struggled with change, routine and was so desperate to be part of a social group that he often made bad choices.

Michael’s dream was to become a Joiner because he loved working with wood, was a practical learner who had an eye for detail and was an excellent problem solver.

Michael’s first internship at the University was within the Estates Department as a Joiner’s Mate. He instantly gelled with the team, becoming one of the lads and became the mate that everyone asked to borrow for jobs. He learnt how to change locks, hang doors, fit furnishings, shelving and how to use a range of heavy industrial machinery also hand tools.

On completion of his second internship, he requested to stay within the same department. But instead work alongside the engineering team carrying out routine maintenance on the universities mechanical assets and equipment. He initially worked alongside an engineer to fit and change pumps, valves and filters. Then progressed to being left to do routine jobs on his own.

Throughout Michael’s time at Project SEARCH, he did not lose sight of his desire to work and get a full time paid job. After applying to many jobs, he landed an interview with Trojan Crates and was successfully appointed as a Workshop Assistant. In his first two weeks of employment he racked up 20 hours of overtime alone. He is so enthusiastic about his job that he has already asked about career development opportunities.

Without Project SEARCH Michael’s chances of employment would have been dramatically reduced.