How do I apply?

Recruitment begins in December each year for the following academic year. To note your interest in the programme, or to learn about upcoming open days, please contact:

✉️ projectsearchuoa@gmail.com

How can Project SEARCH help?

Project SEARCH provides the opportunity to experience different kinds of work and develop transferable skills whilst fully integrated in the workplace. The programme helps interns to:

- Learn more about working alongside others
- Show they are hard-working, reliable, punctual and able to do a good job
- Apply for jobs with local employers using the skills learned on the course
- Gain confidence and social skills
- Demonstrate work based skills

Project SEARCH is based on an international model, which originated in Cincinnati Children’s Hospital in the USA. Project SEARCH University of Aberdeen started in September 2013 and is delivered in partnership with North East Scotland College, Inspire PTL, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability.
Who should apply?
Up to 12 interns per year are selected. To be eligible to apply for a place on Project SEARCH you must meet the following criteria:

- Have a learning disability, autism, or evidence of an additional learning need
- Live in Aberdeen City or Aberdeenshire
- Have a genuine desire to enter employment
- Have basic communication skills
- Have the ability to take direction
- Be willing to work with others
- Be between the ages of 16 and 25 (inclusive)
- Have independent personal care
- Be able to travel independently, or be willing to undertake travel training if required
- If you live in Aberdeenshire, be involved with the Aberdeenshire Council Employment Service

What is Project SEARCH?
Project SEARCH is an employment focused education programme based at the University of Aberdeen.

The programme provides up to 12 young people, or 'interns' with the opportunity to develop employability skills and get hands on experience in the workplace. Additional work related training is provided through classroom sessions each day.

The course runs from September to June each year at the University of Aberdeen. The course takes place in various departments, on an unpaid work experience basis.

Interns can gain up to 800 hours of practical experience and will be supported through complex job coaching.

How does it work?
The Project SEARCH day is from 9am to 4pm, and includes 2 hours of classroom tutoring and 5 hours of practical work.

Interns join a team in three different University departments to undertake an internship (work placement) whilst studying to attain a vocational qualification.

Placements vary throughout the year to help interns develop an array of transferable skills. Placements include:

- Grounds Keeping
- Maintenance
- Catering and Retail
- IT
- Childcare
- Estates Portering Service
- Audio Visual Services
- Administrative and Clerical