

"Whilst at the BRI I did two rotations, I gained more confidence and got lots of compliments from patients! I am also starting my new job in July 2021 at Bradford Talking Media - **Rebecca, Intern 2019/2021**



Working at Bradford College supplying COVID tests to students and staff - **Lauren Bolton & Harvinder Singh - Interns 2021**



DFN Project SEARCH

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What is DFN Project SEARCH?

DFN Project SEARCH is a transition to work programme for young adults aged 18–25, with a learning disability or autistic spectrum condition. We support young people to gain work experience in a real-life work setting. Originating in Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 1996, the DFN Project SEARCH model has grown to over 500 sites across 9 countries. There are now more than 60 programmes in the UK alone. DFN Project SEARCH is a yearlong programme based at Bradford College or Bradford Teaching Hospital. DFN Project SEARCH aims to support the interns to gain key skills to find full time paid employment. This includes systematic instruction to learn new skills and develop the confidence needed to gain and sustain paid employment. The interns are immersed in the host business and fully supported throughout.

Project Search Programme

The Programme offers 3 different placements. This gives the interns chance to learn transferrable skills

- The interns will gain 900+ hours of work experience
- Initial 1:1 support is provided by our [DFN Project SEARCH](#) Job Coach
- A full time Workplace Mentor works alongside the interns in each placement
- Ongoing feedback and development of skills are carefully monitored
- Complete an Employability Skills qualification
- Uniform is provided by the employer (if required)

Base Room

- We have Base Room sessions twice daily AM/PM to:
- Reinforce any training that has happened on the placement
- Reflect on their placements and working practices
- Develop a CV, learn job search skills and prepare for interviews

Paid Employment

The ultimate goal of [DFN Project SEARCH](#) is to support each intern to find full time paid employment.

- Current statistics show that only 6% of young people with a learning disability are in paid employment
- Over 70% of the young people who have previously completed the [DFN Project SEARCH](#) programme went on to find paid work

- Our previous graduates have gone on to gain full time paid work in lots of different careers

Follow on Support

HFT provide follow on support for every intern

- This may be at the host employer or an employer outside of the programme
- They provide support to learn a new role.
- They carry out regular reviews and are happy to assist with learning new tasks as the job develops
- They support the intern and their employer for as long as they are in work
- They also work in partnership with a benefits advice service

The Partnership

[DFN Project SEARCH](#) is driven by collaboration.

The partnership consists of BRI & Bradford College who are the business partners. They provide a place for the teaching to take place, work placement opportunities, and work place mentors.

Bradford College delivers work skills training in a classroom environment in addition to offering Maths and English. They also deliver an employability qualification.

HFT provide job coaching support during initial training on each placement. They carry out regular reviews and also support after the programme has finished.

Bradford Travel Training Unit ensures that all interns can travel safely and independently before the programme starts.