

Policy for external Work Placements with Wiltshire College & University Centre

Following the latest government guidance and the new roadmap for the easing of restrictions, from the 12th April students will be able to restart their industry placements. In line with this guidance Wiltshire college will be restarting all external work experience within all open sectors of business.

The Government guidance for FE states:

- The evidence shows there is a very low risk of becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for young people with existing health conditions.
- Those young people whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place. Further Education Colleges will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable them to continue their education at home.
- Young people who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.'

In line with the government roadmap businesses throughout Wiltshire will now reopen, and it is important to make sure that they are following the Government guidance for themselves, and their employees and customers/clients. The guidance updated by the Government on 26th March 2021 in the regards to going to work is that you should return to work if the business is COVID-19 secure. Please refer to the Government guidance on returning to work for the chosen sector. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

While Work Experience and Industry Placements are a requirement of all Wiltshire College full time courses, Wiltshire College will follow the Government guidance regarding external work placements for these students. Guidance is subject to change, and we will endeavour to keep our policy updated as things progress. Your dedicated Placement Officer will work with you, and the students to ensure that restrictions are in place, and suitable for an external placement.

Wiltshire College & University Centre's Work Placement Team will ensure that all external work placement settings are checked prior to a placement starting; all employers will need to sign a declaration including a number of Health and Safety requirements, containing Covid-19 restrictions during this current period.

It is vitally important that any suspected cases of Covid-19 are reported to your dedicated Placement Officer at Wiltshire College as soon as possible in line with the Colleges reporting policy. If you test positive for Covid-19 and you currently have a placement student at your workplace, you must ensure that you inform the students as well as your dedicated placement officer at Wiltshire College as soon as possible.

Email for the Work Placement Team: workexperience@wiltshire.ac.uk