

Project SEARCH

 Queensmill College, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Trust, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Parents Active

What is Project Search?

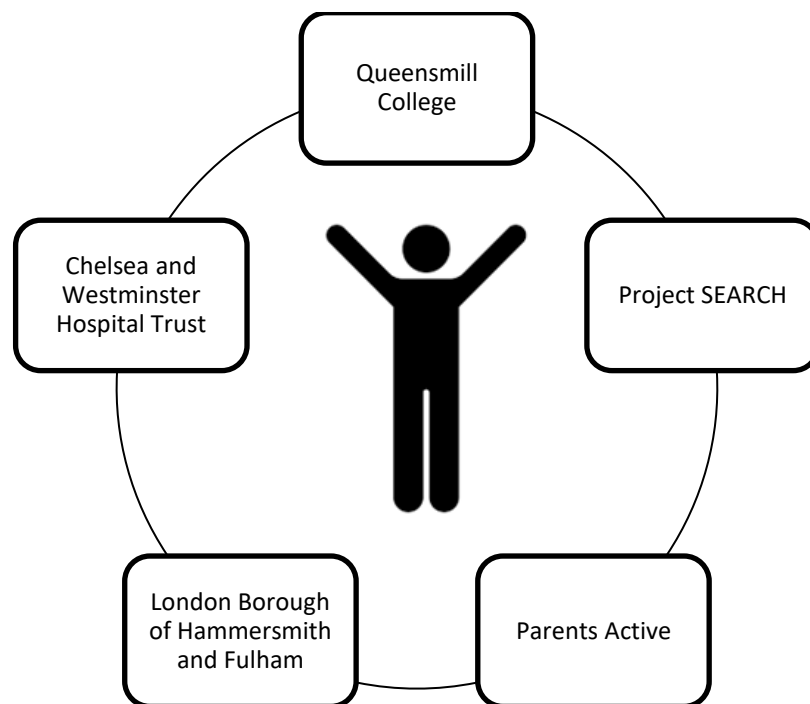
Project Search is a one year transition to work supported internship program, for young people with autism and learning difficulties. Originating at Cincinnati Hospital, USA, this highly effective approach to developing on-the-job, work place competence has been adopted in the UK for several years with great success.



Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Trust and Queensmill College have partnered together to give young people with autism and learning difficulties an opportunity to develop their skills within a real work environment as well as work towards an ASDAN award in employability.

Our program is based at the West Middlesex University Hospital site in Isleworth, London. We

apply a specialist, autism friendly approach to support our interns on site, though we are open to working with young people with other special educational needs and are able to suitably accommodate each individual on the program.



What does a typical day at Project Search look like?

Following a two week long hospital induction, interns are introduced to their rotations. Once full time in rotations, interns spend about half an hour to an hour in the base room where they complete an employability skills curriculum and work towards achieving an ASDAN award. They then spend four hours daily in their rotations with an hour for lunch and a break. The day will conclude with a reflection session where interns can look back on their day and discuss any issues that may have arisen.

If possible, interns are encouraged to travel independently to the hospital and are offered travel training to assist with this. Valuable life skills are also practiced daily as interns are responsible for paying for or bringing their own lunches, changing into their uniforms, and being punctual for their shift.



What does the curriculum cover?

Six key areas are covered in order to prepare the interns for the world of work. The SCERTS model is also followed in order to help the interns manage their autism and ease anxiety in the work place.

<p>Employability Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Customer service ▪ Team work ▪ Attendance and timekeeping ▪ Hygiene and grooming ▪ Workplace behaviour 	<p>Health and Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workplace hazards ▪ Reading signs and symbols ▪ Protective equipment and clothing ▪ Tidy workspaces ▪ Fire safety ▪ Handwashing/infection control ▪ Food hygiene ▪ Safe lifting and handling 	<p>Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy eating and exercise ▪ Leisure/recreational activities ▪ Body language ▪ Social skills ▪ Mental health ▪ SoSafe and managing relationships
<p>ICT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic computer skills ▪ Sending and receiving emails ▪ Online safety ▪ Giving a presentation ▪ Social media ▪ Appropriate use of personal electronics in the workplace ▪ Using the internet to find out information 	<p>Financial Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bank accounts ▪ Salary and wages ▪ Personal budget ▪ Financial management skills 	<p>Finding Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating and maintaining a CV ▪ Interview skills and practice ▪ Appropriate dress for interviews ▪ Job applications and searching for work ▪ References

What types of internships are available?

We currently have internships on offer in the following areas however this is expected to increase over the course of the year.

- Clerical
- Medical records
- Stores
- Maintenance and grounds
- Retail
- Pharmacy
- Catering
- Domestics/Ward host
- Laundry
- Post



What are the eligibility criteria?

In order to be eligible for the Project Search program at West Middlesex University Hospital, the following must be met:

- A desire to work with the aim of employment
- An Education Healthcare Plan
- Ages 17-25
- Parental approval

While we enthusiastically encourage applications from young people on the autism spectrum, our applications are open to all young people with an education health and care (EHC) plan.



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How to apply:

The application process for the September 2020 – July 2021 year will begin in November 2019. An application may be requested by emailing projectsearch@queensmill.lbhf.sch.uk. Once the application is received, applicants will be shortlisted and called in for a skills assessment and interview at West Middlesex University Hospital.

For further information, please contact:

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