

Virtual Work Experience

FAQs

Q. What age group is this opportunity suitable for?

A. The Fortem virtual work experience programme is available to absolutely anyone over the age of 14.

Q. What do I need to do to enrol students on the programme?

A. We are thrilled to be welcoming your students on to our work experience programme.

To enrol your students on to the programme simply send an email to Rebecca.Goodwin@fortem.co.uk to begin discussing the options available to you and your pupils.

Q. Can students register to take part themselves?

A. Student or not, anyone over the age of 14 can complete our virtual work experience programme and all registration enquiries should be directed to Rebecca.Goodwin@fortem.co.uk

Q. How long is the programme? Does it have to be completed as a block week?

A. Our virtual work experience programme can be fully customised to suit the needs of your school and students. We have a variety of work experience modules available, all of which focus on a different role within construction and vary in length.

The introduction to work experience document provides some examples of how the programme can be delivered including a block week, one day a week for several weeks, a two-day programme or a one off module, with many other options available. The length and type of programme can be agreed after initial enrolment.

Q. Is this programme only available during lockdown?

A. Absolutely not. The virtual work experience programme was developed to allow Fortem to continue working with young people and students during lockdowns but moving forward, the programme will be offered as a blended approach to our regular work experience initiatives.

Q. **A module would suit a topic we are currently teaching in curriculum. Are students able to complete just one module, or do they have to complete the whole programme?**

A. You can absolutely complete just one module! Or two. Or even three.

The virtual work experience programme is completely customisable to suit the needs of your school and students. You can opt to complete a single module to support curriculum or deliver a full week – and everything in between!

Please refer to the introduction to work experience document for more information.

Q. **Do students have to apply / interview to enrol on the programme?**

A. Good news – there are no complicated application forms or lengthy interviews required to enrol on our work experience programme!

Students or anyone over the age of 14 interested in completing work experience only need to register their interest with Rebecca.Goodwin@fortem.co.uk and away you go!

For large groups or classes of students, interest should be directed to your schools' career lead in the first instance and the career lead should then register interest via Rebecca Goodwin.

Q. **How does Fortem's programme help our school achieve Gatsby Benchmark 6?**

A. Whilst developing this programme our team worked alongside the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership team to ensure the virtual work experience could help schools to achieve Gatsby Benchmark 6.

All our work experience modules are based on real working examples of Fortem job roles and tasks within these roles. This ensures students and all individuals undertaking the programme are performing tasks relevant to the workplace. We can also provide feedback on the work produced if this is requested.

We also have mentors on hand to provide support throughout the programme, providing meaningful two-way interaction between Fortem and students.

Q. **What will be required of school if we want our students to enrol on this programme?**

A. We are delighted that you are considering enrolling your students on our virtual work experience programme!

To get the ball rolling, please contact Rebecca.Goodwin@fortem.co.uk to register your interest and begin discussing both yours and Fortem's requirements. From here we can discuss different options for the programme including length, modules and delivery method.

Also, your team will need to manage communication with parents to collect signed consent forms and also promote the programme – with the promotional material our team has prepared ready for you to use.

Q. How does the Fortem mentor communicate with students?

A. Communication between mentor and students can be offered in a variety of ways. As the work experience programme is completely customisable, communication methods will be agreed with career leads when discussing the format of the programme. This will ensure the most effective two-way conversation can be provided in line with Gatsby Benchmark 6.
Email communication and Teams calls are some of the options available.

Q. Are Fortem mentors DBS checked?

A. For all DBS requirements please contact Rebecca.Goodwin@fortem.co.uk where these can be discussed in advance of the programme.
If DBS checks are required, we can arrange for mentors with completed checks.

Q. How does Fortem provide student feedback?

A. In line with Gatsby Benchmark 6, we offer feedback for students that have completed the work experience programme.

Receiving feedback is as easy as returning your completed work experience booklet to our team for us to review and provide general feedback. The need for feedback can be agreed between Fortem and your career lead prior to the programme starting (just so we know to expect the booklets back).

Q. We have students interested in Fortem's programme. Can Fortem brief our students before they begin the work experience?

A. Of course we can! We are really excited about the interest you've already received from your students and we can't wait to offer them work experience programme.

Our mentors can be on hand to brief students before starting the programme. The requirements of this briefing can be agreed between Fortem and your career lead in advance.

Q. Our school would like to promote this programme to our students, do you have any information we can share & how they can enrol?

A. That's great news! Our team have several promotional materials available with all the useful information about the programme and how to enrol. Our introduction to work experience document and associated poster can be requested via Rebecca.Goodwin@fortem.co.uk

Q. Are students able to leave feedback on the virtual work experience programme?

A. Of course! And we value all feedback received from students, schools, career leads or anyone else who has completed the programme.

At the end of the work experience programme, our team will sent out a survey to the school, student or individual who has taken part. The information provided in the survey is collected and recorded by Fortem for future improvements to the virtual work experience and to measure how successful it has been.