

Fosse Way
School

Project SEARCH

Helping students with learning disabilities find jobs



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Project | SEARCH

NHS

Royal United
Hospitals Bath
NHS Foundation Trust

Introducing Project SEARCH

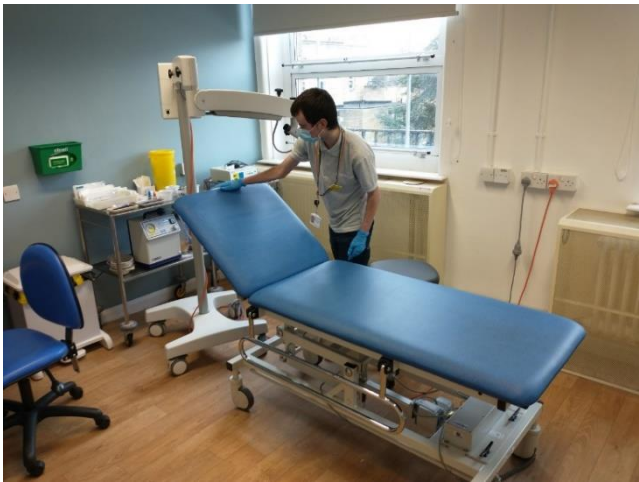
Project SEARCH is a one-year course for students in their final year of education, enabling them to spend a year on site with an employer. This provides them with the skills, experience, knowledge and confidence to find paid employment at the end of the year. It is a programme that has been developed in Cincinnati, USA and is now successfully replicated in many states. Fosse Way School was the first school in the UK to offer the course.

During the year students learn a variety of jobs and other employability skills, such as completing applications and attending interviews. The students spend a small proportion of every day in a classroom and the rest of the day they are out working in various departments as trainees. During this time they learn the transferable skills needed within the current job market. The aim of the course is employment. The course includes the ASDAN certificate in Employability (entry level 2 – level 2), or appropriate qualifications included in the qualifications and credit framework.

More than half of the students from Project SEARCH’S first four years have already found paid employment.

The partners working with Fosse Way School are the Royal United Hospital in Bath (employer) and our job coaches.

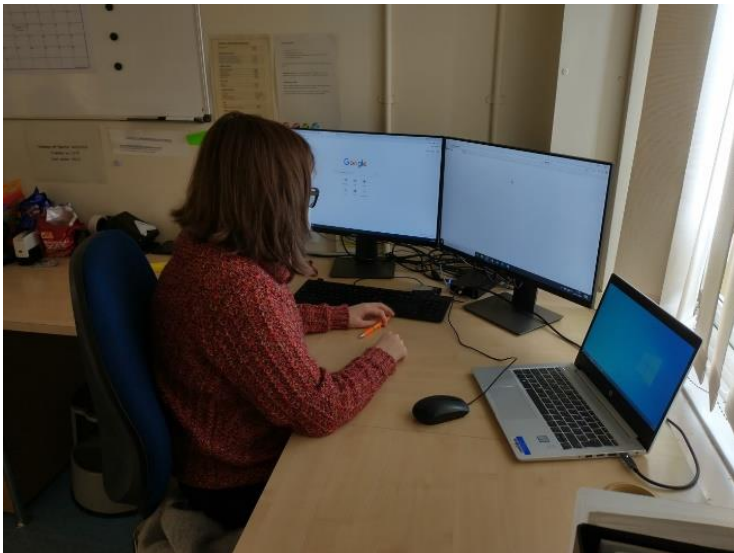
The collaboration with the RUH gives the pupils the opportunity to be supported during their introduction to the workplace, with a real prospect of gaining employment by the end of the year. From its first four years 60% of the students have already found paid employment at various organisations including the RUH, University of Bath, and private companies.



Each year up to 12 students aged 18+ from B&NES and surrounding local authorities enrol on the programme. There is an equipped classroom on site at the RUH, and students are supported in the classroom by Teachers and ProjectSEARCH Coordinators, Job Coach and Staff throughout the RUH.

“Project SEARCH has been a life-changing experience for me. I have achieved a lot and for anyone considering the project I would recommend it.”

Project SEARCH graduate now in paid employment at the RUH.



The project is designed to give students experience in both general and task-specific jobs skills. Students receive regular instruction in the workplace and are supported with independent living skills and a job coach is based here at Project SEARCH to offer continued support to the students.

Pupils also learn valuable skills such as interview techniques and writing CVs, which prepares them with the skills required for the job market.

“Project SEARCH provides a platform for our students to demonstrate their skills and abilities. It challenges misconceptions about employing people with learning disabilities.”

Jade Jeffery, Project SEARCH Coordinator

Students at work

From the restaurant to outpatients, from the emergency department to the library, each day the students spend time in the workplace. Their placements are rotated which allows them to learn and develop new skills in different areas. This allows each student to develop a broad range of skills needed for employment.

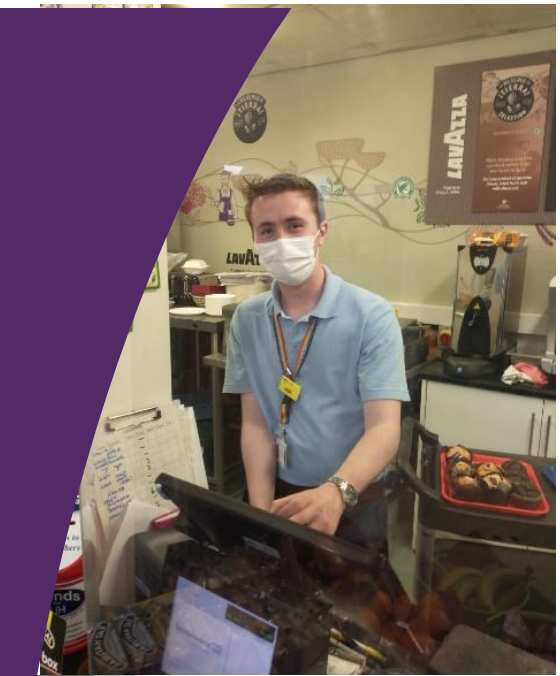
40 departments now want to have a student in their departments as the students’ reputation for hard work is gradually spreading.

A typical day:

8.45am	Students arrive.
9.00am	The first group of students go to their departments, and the second group work in the classroom on work related topics, course work and healthy lifestyle skills.
10.00am	The second group of students go to work
9.00am - 2.30pm	Students are monitored and coached by the Project SEARCH team.
1.30pm	The first group of students return to the classroom to take part in the education based section of the course at the RUH.
2.30pm	The second group return and the students meet up to complete their diaries and discussion.
3.00pm	Students leave to travel home.

“Students have supported pharmacy staff, and the roles depend on the individual student and their abilities. It’s very rewarding to see students’ progress with the tasks, and we miss them when they are not here.”

Lynda Clark, Purchasing and Distribution Pharmacy



Project SEARCH gets results

Ten out of twelve students who undertook Project SEARCH in during 2021-2022 are now in paid employment, one is attending University and one is currently applying for Administrator positions.

Where are some of the students working now?

In the Facilities Department as an Environmental Groundsman at the RUH

At the University of Bath

As a Patient Support Assistant at the RUH

In the Medical Records Department at the RUH

In the Pharmacy Department at the RUH

As a Porter at the RUH

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Project SEARCH has really built up my daughter's confidence. It is an excellent scheme and it focuses on the things we want for our children – for them to learn, to experience the world of work, and to develop the skill they need to get a job and find their place in life.

Mother of a Project SEARCH pupil

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For more information about Project SEARCH

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