



Work experience log

Get ready for the future you want

 **BARCLAYS** | LifeSkills





Placement details

The work experience coordinator at your school can help you to complete this section. You can also find out any missing information during a pre-placement interview.

Dates of placement: From to

Daily working hours: From to

Name:

Placement supervisor/who to report to:

Telephone number of contact:

Address:

Where to report to on first day:

What sort of work will I be doing?

What will I wear? Smart/Casual Casual Specialist workwear/uniform (circle as applicable)

Do I need to bring lunch with me?

Will I need any special equipment?

Who has been alerted to any medical conditions I have?

Arrangements I need to research before I start:

How will I get there?

How long will the journey take?

How much will it cost?

What time will I need to get up?

How much money will I need to take each day, including travel and lunch?

Welcome

Work experience teaches you new skills, and shows where you can further develop the talents that you already have. Learning on the job will teach you things you might never have the opportunity to learn in the classroom. For some of you, this will be your first step on the career ladder to success, so enjoy the experience.

This logbook is full of useful information and advice to help you prepare for your placement. It will also help you to understand the Core transferable skills and personal values employers are looking for. You will be able to identify where you have demonstrated these skills and values already and how to develop them further during your placement.

There is a diary with spaces for you to make notes about what you have done each day and to record the skills you have developed.

There is also a section for you to review the whole week and reflect on the experiences that you have had.

Complete and look after your logbook as it will provide evidence of what you have achieved on your placement. This will help when you take the next step in your learning or work, and provides experience to build your CV.

Don't forget to ask your supervisor to complete the Employer's Assessment before you leave, so that you have a record of their feedback.

How LifeSkills can help you

Taking part in the LifeSkills programme is an important way to prepare for work experience. LifeSkills offers free, interactive tools and resources to help young people like you get ready for the workplace. You can explore everything from writing a CV to shining in an interview, boosting leadership skills, developing confidence and learning to manage money.

Visit the LifeSkills website at:
barclayslifeskills.com



Before you start

Work experience teaches you new skills, and shows where you can further develop the talents that you already have. Learning on the job will teach you things you might never have the opportunity to learn in the classroom. For some of you, this will be your first step on the career ladder to success, so enjoy the experience.

In some cases you will be expected to attend an interview before you start. Even if this is not the case, you will find it very helpful if you phone or meet with your placement supervisor beforehand.

This will give you the opportunity to find out more about your placement and ask any questions you may have, so that you feel fully prepared and confident on your first day.



Pre-placement phone call

Phoning an employer is different to phoning a friend, so work out what you want to say before you call. Make the call well in advance of your placement, ideally two weeks before you are due to start. Make sure you have good signal if you are phoning from a mobile; have a pen, your placement details, some paper to write notes on and this logbook with you. Then find a quiet place to make the call.

Introduce yourself and say you are ringing to confirm arrangements for your placement or to arrange an interview.

Refer to the placement information you completed on page 2. Check that the arrangements listed are correct and ask questions to find out any missing information.

Don't forget to tell the employer if you have any medical conditions which may affect your work experience e.g. if you have any allergies or asthma.





Pre-placement interview checklist

Use this checklist to help you prepare for a face-to-face interview. This will help you to make a great first impression.

- Make a note of where you have to go and the date and time
- Check what you are expected to bring, which may include a CV, your placement details and this logbook
- Plan your travel arrangements carefully, leaving extra time in case of travel delays which could make you late. Aim to arrive fifteen minutes early
- Dress smartly and appropriately
- When you arrive, say who you are and who you are there to meet
- Turn off your mobile phone or put it on silent and out of sight
- Be polite. Say 'please' and 'thank you' and remember to smile
- Shake hands with the person you are meeting
- Where appropriate, give full answers to questions, rather than only 'yes' or 'no', as this will give you an opportunity to impress the interviewer
- Prepare some answers to questions you might be asked. This might include 'What do you want to do when you leave school?' or 'Why did you choose this work experience placement?'
- Don't be afraid to ask questions yourself. This is an opportunity to show the interviewers your interest in the placement
- Visit [barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-to-prepare-for-an-interview/school](https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-to-prepare-for-an-interview/school) for more advice and guidance on interviews. You can also practice your interview technique by using our Virtual Interview Practice interactive tool and rehearse answers to the kind of questions you can expect. You'll get top interview tips next to our model answers
- Write down any information you are given rather than just relying on memory
- Tell them about any time you need to have off during your placement, for example for an urgent appointment (but do try to avoid this if possible)

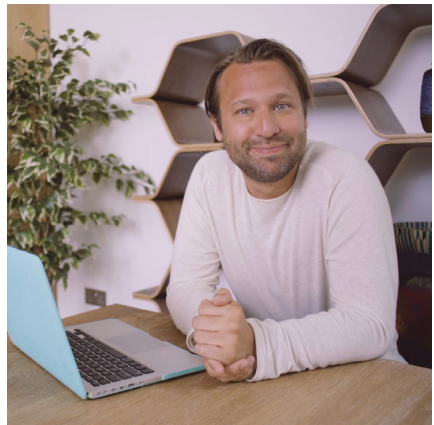
Virtual work experience

When face-to-face opportunities aren't available, our Virtual work experience hub helps you explore different industries and recognise the skills needed for the workplace.

Explore the hub at barclayslifeskills.com/virtual-work-experience



Our Virtual Work Experience interactive tool lets you take a virtual journey into the world of work, moving through different departments of a real-life organisation with the ability to ask and answer questions to gain an understanding of how the business works. You'll practise the real-world application of skills like communication and productivity and how these are used in the workplace.



Visit barclayslifeskills.com/vwex to try it out.

Skills needed in the workplace

One of the many ways in which LifeSkills can help you get the most out of your work experience is by helping you identify your skills. Core transferable skills include a range of skills employers see as increasingly important. Recognising and demonstrating these skills will support your transition into work and it will be useful to record how you are able to use them during your placement:



Problem solving



Listening and speaking (communication)



Creativity



Aiming high (proactivity)



Leadership



Staying positive (resilience)



Adaptability

- **Problem solving** skills are about using a structured process to analyse tricky problems, consider logical solutions, and then evaluate the result. This can be done alone or as a collaboration with other people
- **Listening and speaking (communication)** are the verbal and physical skills that we use every day to explain what we're thinking and feeling to other people
- **Creativity** is the ability to come up with inventive ideas that will help you complete a task or solve a problem in a new or interesting way
- **Aiming high (proactivity)** means that you think ahead, take the initiative and make things happen, instead of always reacting to what happens around you
- **Leadership** is the ability to get the best out of a team of people as you collectively work to tackle a task, or reach an objective
- **Staying positive (resilience)** is the ability to cope with challenges or setbacks and turn them into positive, valuable learning experiences
- **Adaptability** is the skill of adjusting to new or changed conditions quickly and positively

If you would like to find out more about core transferable skills, visit barclayslifeskills.com/transferableskills for more information.



Personal values

As well as core transferable skills, employers are interested in the values you hold. Personal values are a set of beliefs, held by an individual, which are shaped by how we experience the world, and shape our behaviour.

Identifying and expressing your personal values can be a way of making you stand out to employers, in your application, the interview process and when you've secured a job. Here are some personal values that you could demonstrate during your work experience placement:

- **Integrity (honesty)** – I can identify what is important to me and reflect on how I can bring this into my work. I am willing to challenge things and speak up for what I believe in in a fair and balanced way
- **Courage** – I speak up for my ideas, and am willing to take on a new challenge. I respond positively and can adapt when things aren't going to plan
- **Perseverance** – When things aren't going to plan, I look for alternative solutions to an issue and set clear goals, without getting frustrated or giving up
- **Collaboration** – I try to look beyond the colleagues in my immediate team and take time to talk to other people in the organisation, as we are working towards a common goal. I share knowledge, experience and ideas that will benefit everyone
- **Curiosity** – I like investigating the reasons behind things and what I can do to improve. I keep on top of changing and new innovations and always want to learn more



You already have some of these skills and values which you have developed in school or college, at home or in activities you do in your own time.

Use the table on the next page to write down some examples of where you have already demonstrated these and how you might be able to develop them further during your work placement.

If you would like to find out more about personal values, visit [barclayslifefskills.com/valuesquiz](https://www.barclayslifefskills.com/valuesquiz) for more information.

Skills and values	I have demonstrated this already by	I could develop these during my work placement by
Problem solving		
Creativity		
Communication (listening and speaking)		
Leadership		
Aiming high (proactivity)		
Staying positive (resilience)		
Integrity		
Courage		
Perseverance		
Collaboration		
Curiosity		

Using social media at work

Social media forms part of day-to-day life, and it's important that you consider how you use it in the workplace.



- You should assume that anything you post online can be found and read by anyone – from your intended audience to managers and business competitors. Once something is posted on the internet, it can prove impossible to remove it altogether
- Many companies will be happy for you to use social media at work, as long as you're acting responsibly. It's worth checking with the company at the start of your placement if they have a social media policy, and what the expectations are for you when using social media
- If you make a mistake and post something you shouldn't have, delete the post then inform your manager. It's important to address any issues straightaway, rather than let them develop
- Companies have a responsibility to ensure they follow certain rules and regulations. This includes protecting their clients' information. You should be careful not to share or expose anything about a company's clients or customers, as this could result in damage to the reputation or finances of the business
- Remember, before posting anything relating to your placement on social media, ask yourself the question; would the company be happy for me to post this? If the answer is no, then you shouldn't be posting it

Health and safety

All workplaces have some hazards. A hazard is something that can cause harm, illness or damage to health or property. The employer has a responsibility to control hazards so that you and other employees are safe but you also have responsibilities which are to:

- Act responsibly and not do anything to endanger others
- Keep your workspace tidy at all times
- Follow the health and safety rules and signs
- Report anything you feel is dangerous such as spillages

You will have a health and safety briefing at the beginning of your first day during which you will be told what to do if you have an accident, who the first aider is, what to do if there is a fire and if you need to use any protective clothing or equipment.

Even if all of the rules are carefully followed, accidents sometimes happen at work. If you have an accident you should tell your supervisor. You should also record it below and let your teacher know about it when you return to school.



Accident record

Date and time of accident:

Where it happened, including room or place:

What happened? Give the cause if you can:

If you were injured, say what the injury was and the action taken by the company:

Signed (student):

Date:

Signed (supervisor):

Date:

Safety signs

You will see signs in the workplace that will help to keep everyone safe. They may not look exactly the same in all workplaces, but they follow the same general rules of shapes and colours.



Prohibition signs are a red on white background and mean stop/must not.



Warning signs warn of dangers and have a black triangle with a yellow background and a symbol representing the hazard.



Mandatory signs mean you must obey or do something and have a blue background with a white symbol.



Safe condition signs have a green background and show the right way or give directions to things such as fire extinguishers or exits.





Diary: Day 1

Fill out a daily diary during your placement. If you are on a 'taster day' simply fill in Day 1 only. Completing this diary will help you to reflect on what you've learned during your placement and record information that could help you improve your skills and build your CV.

Tasks I completed today:

Skills and values I demonstrated (remember the list on p9) and how I demonstrated them:

Brief description of what my employer does:

What I found out about health and safety today:

What I did well and am proud of today:

On reflection, I would have done this differently:

Employer/supervisor comment:

Diary: Day 2

Tasks I completed today:

Skills and values I demonstrated (remember the list on p9) and how I demonstrated them:

The different types of job at my work placement:

What I did well and am proud of today:

On reflection I would have done this differently:

Employer/supervisor comment:

Diary: Day 3

Tasks I completed today:

Skills and values I demonstrated (remember the list on p9) and how I demonstrated them:

What I learnt about the world of work:

What I did well and am proud of today:

On reflection I would have done this differently:

Employer/supervisor comment:

Diary: Day 4

Tasks I completed today:

Skills and values I demonstrated (remember the list on p9) and how I demonstrated them:

Qualifications I would need to do this job:

What I did well and am proud of today:

On reflection I would have done this differently:

Employer/supervisor comment:

Diary: Day 5

Tasks I completed today:

Skills and values I demonstrated (remember the list on p9) and how I demonstrated them:

The most important things I learnt this week were:

My greatest achievement during my placement is:

How I will use my experience in my placement to prepare for the world of work:

Employer/supervisor comment:

My work experience review

Summary of the main tasks I carried out during my placement:

These were the high points of my placement:

This is what could have gone better:

I am strong in these skills and values:

I need to work on the following skills and values:

If I had my time again I would do these things differently:

Skills and values self-assessment

How well do you think you did on work experience? Tick the box, and remember to answer as honestly as you can.

How do you rate your skills and values?	Very good	Good	Would like to improve
Problem solving			
Creativity			
Communication (listening and speaking)			
Leadership			
Aiming high (proactivity)			
Staying positive (resilience)			
Integrity			
Courage			
Perseverance			
Collaboration			
Curiosity			

Before your placement, what thoughts did you have about your future career?

Has your placement helped you to firm up your career plans? If so, in what way?

Employer assessment (to be completed by placement manager)

Your co-operation in completing this assessment is much appreciated. The information you provide will be important in helping students assess how they did on work experience. Please could you complete this before the end of the placement and give it back to the student.

Name of student:

Company name:

Dates of work experience: _____ to: _____

Please rate the student on the following statements.

1 = needs improvement, 2 = satisfactory, 3 = good, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent

Statement	Rating	Comments
Problem solving		
Creativity		
Communication (listening and speaking)		
Leadership		
Aiming high (proactivity)		
Staying positive (resilience)		
Integrity		
Courage		
Perseverance		
Collaboration		
Curiosity		

.....
(Name of student)'s overall performance whilst with our company was:

Excellent Good Satisfactory Disappointing



Employer assessment (continued)

Please expand on your feedback, mentioning any particular strengths and weaknesses to aid the student's employability and career development. You don't need to repeat any points already mentioned in the daily diary.

Name:

Job title:

Date:

Signature:



Parent/guardian comments

If you have any comments, feedback or suggestions for our work experience programme, please write them in the space below.

Name:

Signature:

Date:



Teacher comments

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Saying thank you

Employers give up their time to provide work experience so it's important to say thank you to them for the opportunity they've given you. Use this template to write a personal letter to the employer. You might find it helpful to look back at your daily diary to reflect back on what you learnt. You could send the letter by post or by email.

Dear [name of employer/supervisor]

Thank you for allowing me to spend a week at [company name] in [month of placement]. I enjoyed working in [name of department/office/location] with [names of people you worked with].

I found it really useful to be in a real workplace; the most important thing I learnt was [insert what you think was your most important lesson]. This will help me prepare for the world of work by [insert your reasons for this being an important lesson].

The placement also helped me to realise that I have good skills in [name your strongest skills] and that I can do more to develop my skills in [name the skills you're going to improve].

Thank you for taking the time to organise my placement and [add anything else you particularly want to thank them for, e.g. taking you out for lunch/showing you around on your first day].

Yours sincerely,
[your name]

What next?

Your work placement should have given you some new experiences and some things to think about. Choose one of the following to do, to continue your preparation for the world of work:

- Create a poster/infographic/presentation showing what you've learnt about the world of work
- Give a ten minute presentation to your year group and others in the school. Talk about your experience and describe what went well, what you learnt, and what you would do differently in future
- Draw up a plan for what you need to do/learn/research to get into your chosen career
- Consider other ways of building experience. From community fundraising to volunteering or campaigning, social action is a great way of getting involved in meaningful and enriching opportunities. To learn more about social action, visit [barclayslifeskills.com/socialaction](https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/socialaction)

Visit LifeSkills today

Congratulations on completing your work experience placement. We hope that you have enjoyed your insight into the world of work.

For more information on how you can use LifeSkills to become work ready, please visit [barclayslifeskills.com](https://www.barclayslifeskills.com)





For more information or to tell us how you've used LifeSkills:

Visit [barclayslifeskills.com](https://www.barclayslifeskills.com)

Email: barclayslifeskills@barclays.com

 [facebook.com/YourLifeSkills](https://www.facebook.com/YourLifeSkills)

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