**YTP Work Experience**

The job market is a competitive place. So, whether you’re still in high-school and want to get a head-start over your future competition or you’re taking the next steps in your [career development](https://www.careeraddict.com/career-development-essential-guide-professional-growth), completing some work experience can be your ticket to full-time employment.

**All YTP Students should be participating in some type of work experience.**

* School on-site supported work experiences: Filing, shredding, maintenance, janitorial, food service, landscaping, student support services, Teachers Assistant, computer services, food services (these can serve as mini work assessments that will help us determine strengths, skills, abilities, support needs)
* Paid or unpaid community based work experiences
* Summer youth programs and employment

**1. You’ll Develop Your Transferable Skills**

Whether it’s a short work placement or a longer [internship](https://www.careeraddict.com/internships-guide-starting-career), you’ll equip yourself with certain transferable skills (such as [communication](https://www.careeraddict.com/improve-communication-skills) and [leadership](https://www.careeraddict.com/leadership-skills)) that are highly sought after by employers. As the name suggests, these skills can be transferred across one role or industry to another, and this is what makes them (and you) so darn valuable.

**2. You’ll Get to Test Things Out**

The beauty (one of many) of work experience is that it allows you to test the waters before you fully commit yourself to a specific role, industry or even company. This is especially true for school leavers who are at a loss as to what they should do next.

**3. It Makes You More Employable**

The bottom line is that having some work experience (any kind) shows employers that you are motivated to develop yourself and learn new things and this drastically [improves your employability](https://www.careeraddict.com/improve-work-performance) in the process. It gives you something to put on your application and resume and also makes for a great conversation piece in a [job interview](https://www.careeraddict.com/comprehensive-guide-preparing-job-interview).

**4. It Could Lead to a Full-Time Job**

One of the biggest benefits of completing a work experience placement or internship is that it often leads to a full-time job offer – provided that you performed well in the role, of course. That’s because employers are far more willing to employ people who already know the ins and outs of the company than having to train someone new from scratch. In other words, don’t discount the opportunities that even working for free can provide you with further down the road!

**5. It Introduces You to the World of Work**

Another way work experience is important to your long-term career is that it offers you the opportunity to learn skills and processes that you’ll only ever be able to learn in a workplace setting. You’ll get a real feel of how people work together, how things get done and basically how work differs from school.

**6. You’ll Broaden Your Network**

Ah, [networking](https://www.careeraddict.com/professional-networking-basics-what-need-know). It’s one of those things that you either love, hate or at least tolerate. It’s also probably the most important thing you can do to help yourself in your [job search](https://www.careeraddict.com/jobseeker-wage-earner-find-job). In your work placement, you’ll meet – and work alongside – a variety of professionals. And these folks can do a lot more than simply show you the ropes and provide you with valuable insight into the company, sector and position. They can also prove incredibly useful when you’re looking for a job by pointing you into the direction of suitable vacancies or directly recommending you to their clients or business partners who are looking for someone with your knowledge and skillset.