



## At a glance...

Graduates of St Chad's College at the University of Durham are among the brightest and the best in the UK; our graduating classes regularly achieve the highest proportion of first class degrees of any College at the University. However, this talent and energy is largely lost to the North East when the vast majority of these students leave the region to begin their careers, most often in the South East – this is what is referred to as 'the brain drain'. **We would like to challenge our students' assumption that you can begin or progress your career only in the South East by developing a new internship scheme with businesses and organisations in the North East.** A promising graduate who has engaged with a North East business or organisation through an internship during their studies is more likely to consider working in the region after graduation. This would help the region retain prized talent and energy, and would give North East businesses valuable early access to some of the most accomplished graduates in the UK.

## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for around 15-20 North East-based employers who would be interested in partnering with St Chad's College on our new internship scheme, Intern:NE.

## How would this work?

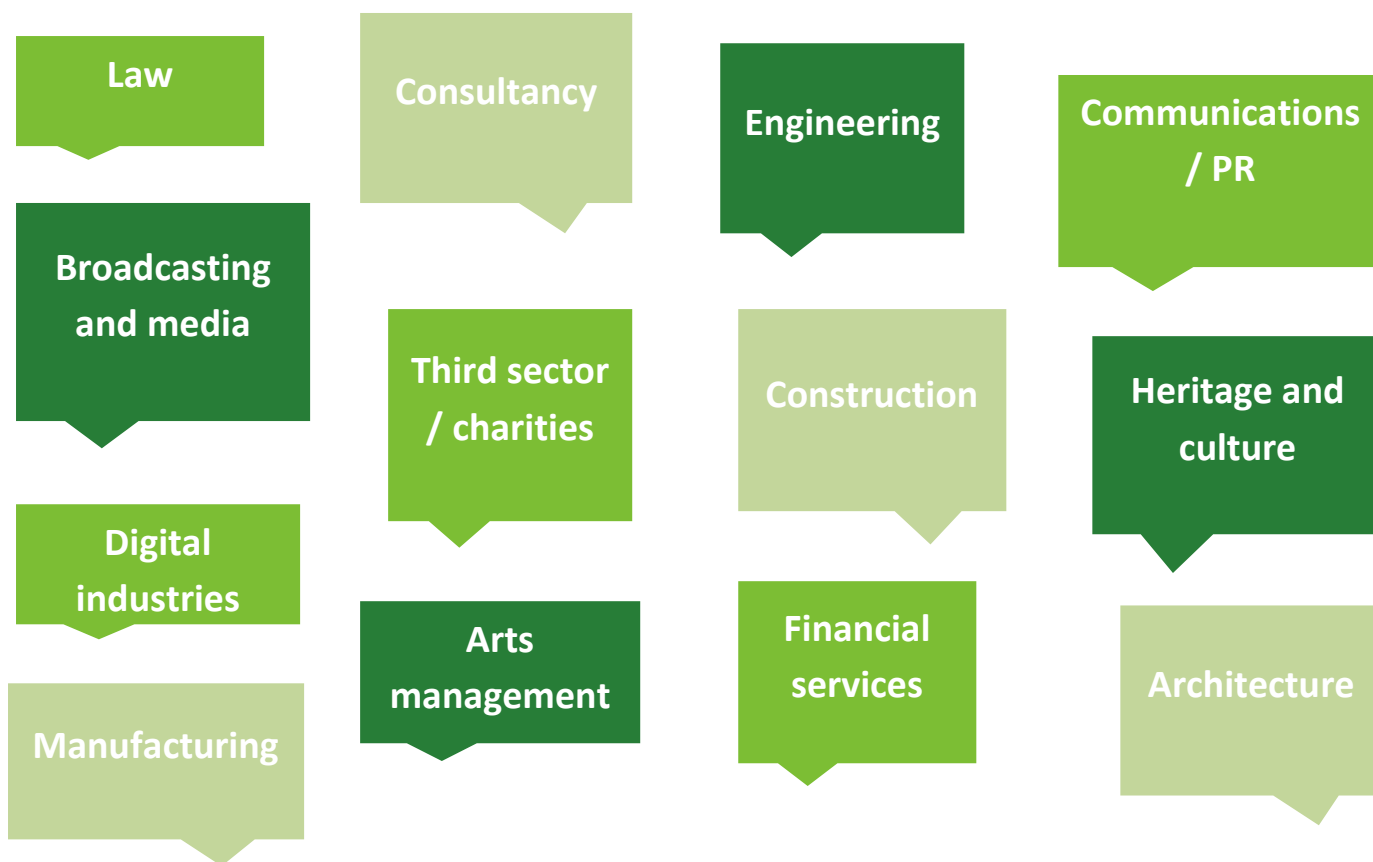
North East-based employers would offer internship or work experience opportunities to current students of St Chad's College, University of Durham. Necessarily, each internship opportunity would be different, designed to fulfil *your* needs; you might offer a four week internship in the summer vacation (early July to late September), or you might offer the opportunity for a student to be involved in a particular project for several hours a week over a longer period of time. **You would specify exactly what you needed in terms of existing knowledge, skills, and aptitudes and students would apply directly to you.** The student gains valuable experience, knowledge, and confidence, and you benefit from the energy and talents of a high calibre Durham student. You'd also have the opportunity to promote your business / organisation to our students at our regular careers events in College.

## Are students looking for paid internships?

We're aware that the most competitive internship opportunities tend to be based in the South East, and that many students from less prosperous socio-economic backgrounds, particularly those from the North East, are discouraged from undertaking unpaid internships because of the high cost of finding temporary accommodation away from home. **To ensure that every student, no matter their financial means, has an opportunity to participate in this scheme, we would offer limited subsidies for travel expenses during term time, and accommodation in College for the duration of their internship if this took place during the vacation period.** This would mean that the participating employer would not be under pressure to offer a paid internship if this would prove prohibitive for them.

## What kind of internships are our students looking for?

We have recently consulted our student body, asking them what kind of internship opportunities they would most like to see available in the North East. This is what they said:



## Why this matters for our region

*'Improving our graduate retention rate is a key challenge for the North East. As a region, we are relatively successful at retaining students from the North East who go on to work here after graduation. However, we can do more to improve our attraction and retention of students from outside the region.'*

*We know there are many great reasons to build your career in the North East, and we want to support businesses, particularly SMEs, to raise awareness of the opportunities they offer to graduates. The Intern:NE initiative developed by St Chad's College at the University of Durham will help to address this issue by giving students an introduction to employers in the North East and providing valuable work experience.'*

Chief Executive of the North East England Chamber of Commerce, James Ramsbotham

## Keen to find out more?



The College's Vice-Principal and Senior Tutor, Dr Eleanor Spencer-Regan, is leading on this project and can be contacted at

[chads.seniortutor@durham.ac.uk](mailto:chads.seniortutor@durham.ac.uk)

**Tel: 0191 334 3345**

**Twitter: @StChadsDurham**

for further information. We look forward to hearing from you!