



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 our students leave the region after graduation to begin their careers, most often in the South East – this is what is referred to as 'the brain drain'.

We would like to ensure that you're able to consider ALL your options when deciding where to start your career after graduation. Whilst for some students a move to London or the South East is the right decision for them, it's important to know that it's not your only option.

We believe that there are [many great reasons](#) to consider the North East as a place to begin and build your career. Here are just a few:

- North East England is home to over 4,800 creative, digital and technology companies, and the North East software and technology market is worth nearly £2billion. The digital and creative sector in the North East is one of the fastest growing in the country.
- Many UK and international companies have bases in the North East including Nissan, Hitachi, Virgin Money, Sage Group, Bond Dickinson, and PwC.
- Average house prices in the North East are 30% lower than the UK average, so your money goes further than almost anywhere else in the UK.
- People in the North East are known for their passion and friendliness with Geordie accents regularly among the top three favourites in the UK (YouGov).
- Over £250m has been invested in cultural regeneration in NewcastleGateshead, which now boasts more theatres per head of population than anywhere else in the UK, and is a second home to the Royal Shakespeare Company.
- Multiple traditional and contemporary art galleries and theatres. The Baltic Gallery has played host to the Turner Prize attracting almost 150,000 people, double the attendance of any previous attendances in London.

Our new Intern:NE initiative aims to challenge the 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. Intern:NE allows you to explore the opportunities available to graduates in the North East by undertaking internships and work experience placements with NE employers.

How will this work?

A wide range of North East-based employers are offering **exclusive** internship or work experience opportunities to current students of St Chad's College, University of Durham. Necessarily, each internship opportunity is different: one employer may offer a four week internship in the summer vacation whilst another may offer the opportunity for a student to be involved in a particular project for several hours a week over a longer period of time. The employers will specify what they are looking for in terms of existing knowledge, skills, and aptitudes, and you will apply to those employers you are interested in.

Will employers be offering paid internships?

Some employers will be offering paid internships whilst others will be offering unpaid work experience placements. 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 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 free accommodation in College for the duration of their internship if this took place during the vacation period.**

What kind of opportunities will be available?

We are working with a wide range of employers in the below sectors from around the North East and will be announcing the first round of internship opportunities at our launch event on 20th November 2017.





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 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