



## 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 aim to challenge our students' assumption that you can begin or progress your career only in the South East with our Intern:NE internship and graduate retention scheme, working in partnership with NE businesses and organisations.** 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. Over the past few years we have partnered with Swinburne Maddison LLP, COCO (Comrades of Children Overseas), The Auckland Project, Marie Curie, and Womble Bond Dickinson to offer internships to 14 students. We're aware that due to the economic ramifications of Covid-19 students are more anxious than ever about their employment prospects, and we want to show them that there are myriad brilliant opportunities for graduates from all disciplines in the vibrant North East.

## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for North East-based employers who would be interested in partnering with St Chad's College on our internship and graduate retention scheme, Intern:NE for the summer 2021 cycle.

## How does Intern:NE work?

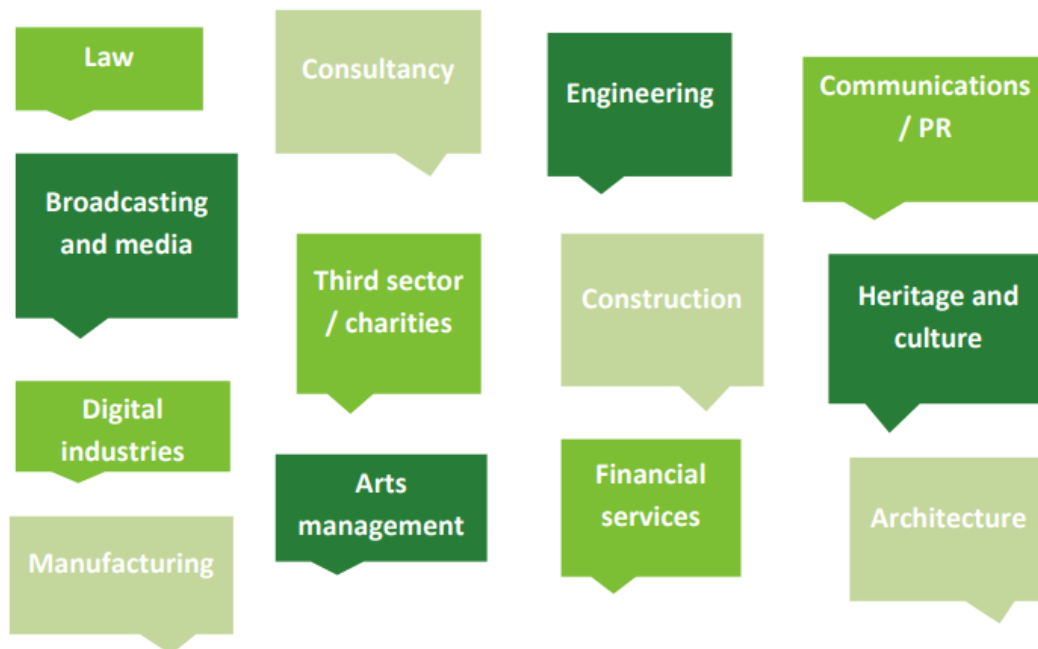
North East-based employers offer internship or work experience opportunities to current students of St Chad's College, University of Durham. Necessarily, each internship opportunity is different, designed to fulfil *your* needs; you might offer a four week internship in the summer vacation (early July 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 specify exactly what you needed in terms of existing knowledge, skills, and aptitudes through an advert circulated to our students and students apply directly to you.** Our 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 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.** This means that the participating employer is not 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 CBE

## 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***

***Tel: 0191 334 3345***

***Twitter: @StChadsDurham***

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

## Testimonials from our business partners and students

Hannah Fougner (International Relations) interned with Durham-based law firm Swinburne Maddison LLP in summer 2018.



**Hannah says** *'The offices are great - welcoming and relaxed, even though every solicitor is working hard and doing important work. I was struck by the focus on innovation and the need to maintain competitiveness. There is also a good continuous*

*professional development programme and several solicitors are studying for additional qualifications. [Intern:NE] provides a fantastic opportunity to gain experience and makes an internship affordable for students who cannot afford to go to London with accommodation provided at the College. At the same time, it demonstrates that there are great opportunities for career development in the North East.'*

**Jonathan Moreland, Partner says** *'We were very pleased to be part of the Intern:NE initiative and delighted that it worked so well – the more so because Hannah was the first student to begin her placement on the scheme – so she has set a high standard. If the region is to have a sound economic future, companies must attract and retain as many talented graduates as possible. That begins by working closely with universities and undergraduates to showcase the type of career opportunities that exist on the doorstep so that career decisions can be made with the benefit of experience, not in ignorance. We would certainly like to provide opportunities like this again for Intern:NE students and would strongly recommend the initiative to other companies.'*

Kiera Dodds (Chemistry) and Olivian Wong (Law) completed internships at Womble Bond Dickinson on Newcastle's Quayside in summer 2018.



**Helen Marr, Graduate Development Specialist at Womble Bond Dickinson, says** *'We were delighted to be part of the Intern: NE programme and are pleased to hear how much Olivian and Kiera have benefited from their time with us. Olivian summed up her experience by saying "the internship has shown me that there are definitely fantastic opportunities for a legal career outside of London, especially up here in the North East. Kiera, a non-law student, valued the opportunity to gain an insight into the different legal sectors and particularly appreciated working alongside "people who have a genuine care for the success of the firm and are passionate about*

*promoting the North East region." We would be very happy to continue our involvement with the programme and would recommend it to other businesses.'*