

### **Graduate internship fund**

For many years LSE's graduate internship fund has helped a small number of graduates gain work experience through directly funded opportunities within divisions and departments across the school. As part of a broader analysis of our work-based learning provision and the support we are able to offer students in this area, we've been reassessing whether the scheme is best suited to current needs.

The last two years have seen a significant decrease in the number of internships and work experience opportunities available to current graduates and recent alumni in the labour market. We are also aware that students from underrepresented backgrounds often miss out on available opportunities or are unable to access them since so many internships remain unpaid. As you know, access to work experience is critical to helping students secure full time employment when they graduate.

We have therefore decided to reallocate the Graduate Internship Fund, using it to support a greater number of students and recent alumni by funding shorter work experience opportunities across a range of hard-to-access-sectors including NGO's, Charities, SME's, Creative Industries etc.

These opportunities will range from short periods of two to five days' work experience through to internships lasting ten weeks. This means we are able to provide a far greater number of individual opportunities to our students, securing 350 work-based learning opportunities rather than the 15 internships we are able to fund through the current scheme.

### **Department micro-projects**

I also wanted to let you know about another of our work-based learning initiatives, our Department micro-projects, which we are planning to introduce in summer 2022. For these, you will be invited to submit proposals for students to work on fixed term project-based initiatives across LSE. These projects will give students the opportunity to develop both technical and soft skills to enhance their employability and help prepare them for their future career. More information will follow next term.

### **Support with other opportunities**

You may of course also decide to directly fund intern opportunities for students and graduates to work within your departments and teams, and we will be delighted to support you with this, by advertising these opportunities on CareerHub and promoting them through our student newsletter.

We know that many departments currently offer hourly paid opportunities, often relying on temp agencies to source staff. We would encourage everyone to seize the opportunity to hire our own LSE talent and advertise these roles with LSE Careers. We are committed to supporting you and will happily provide guidance on how you can recruit LSE students and graduates and ensure they benefit from a meaningful internship experience.

Please contact James Taylor, Employer Engagement Adviser on [j.taylor12@lse.ac.uk](mailto:j.taylor12@lse.ac.uk) to discuss these opportunities further.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.

Best wishes,  
Lizzie

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