

# Work-based Learning Services

Beacon Foundation's Work-based Learning Services are designed to support schools working with industries to create opportunities for students to explore the world of work.



Beacon Foundation (Beacon) works with employers to support work placements and other work-based learning opportunities with schools through our Work-based Learning Services (WBL) team.

Through these services Beacon connects employers with schools who have students that are on a pathway relevant to your industry. These connections aim to address future skill and worker gaps and broaden student understanding of local career opportunities.

The WBL team can work with your business to organise activities in your local schools including site visits, industry panels and guest speakers.

## What is the difference between work placement, work experience and work-based learning?

### Work Experience (Years 9 & 10)

- Year 9 & 10 students who attend a workplace for a short period of time.
- Students observe activities within the workplace.
- Provides students with a taste of the workforce to help with their career decision making.

### Work-based Learning (Years 9 - 12)

- Focusses on students who are starting to explore careers and make decisions about pathways.
- Gives young people exposure to different careers and industries through various methods.
- Activities can be conducted in schools or on worksites and can include:
  - site visits,
  - guest speakers,
  - industry panels.

### Work Placement (Years 11 & 12)

- Also known as Vocational Placement.
- Part of a Vocational Education Training (VET) course.
- Allows students to learn more about a field of work through practical work and develop technical skills related to their VET course.
- Depending on the qualification, work placements can range from several days to a number of weeks.
- Offers employers an excellent opportunity to know students and meet potential future employees.

Strong relationships with our diverse industry partners provide the opportunity for students to implement skills and knowledge they are learning in their VET program, in a real-world environment.

**Liz Self, VET Quality Manager**  
Newstead College

### How does hosting a student and working with schools benefit your business?

- Provides significant insights into the world of work for a young person.
- Provides a direct line of contact to your future industry workforce, creating a potentially efficient recruitment pathway.
- Marketing your industry directly to students.
- Developing your community networks.
- Developing the supervisory, training, and mentoring skills of your current staff.

### Does an employer have to pay a student whilst on placement?

No payment or remuneration is required.

### What support do employers receive when hosting a student in the workplace?

A school contact will work with you to clarify what is required from you and the student whilst they are on placement.

### Can employers decide what type of student they would like?

Employers can share information with the school that is relevant to match the right student to the experience.

### What can an employer expect of a student?

- The student will have a detailed workbook of required tasks to be completed whilst on placement.
- The students' competencies can be developed and refined whilst on placement.
- Compliance with workplace rules and procedures.

### Do employers need to assess students?

The school contact will talk you through any assessment requirements. In some instances, the employer assists with the assessment, whilst in others it will be the school contact who will come to the site to conduct these assessments.

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Working with Beacon benefits our business by showcasing trades to students, so they understand career pathways on offer before committing to apprenticeships. Work placement allows us to see the student in a real-world environment ensuring they are a good fit for our business. Partnerships with schools allow industry contribution to student work preparation.

Tim Jordan, General Manager Degree C

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### Do employers need additional insurance when hosting a student?\*

The Department of Education, Childcare and Young People covers the insurance for all secondary students attending public schools whilst on placement. These policies cover injury to the student and third-party damage caused by student negligence.

\*Providing the student is not being paid by your organisation.

### If you are unable to provide a placement, but would like to get involved there are other options for you to help young people.

Beacon collaborates with schools to provide industry-based learning opportunities. These can include presentations from employers, industry panels or hosting workplace tours. If you are interested in these opportunities we would love to hear from you.

### Interested? What's next?

Whether you already know what you can offer a student, or if you would like to explore how you might participate, please get in touch.

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