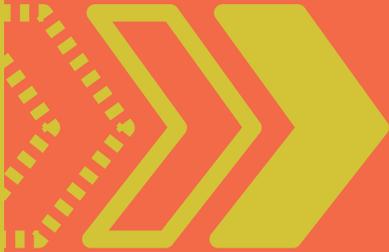




LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY  
BECKETT CAREERS



# SUMMER GRADUATE PROGRAMME

**IMPACT CAREERS**  
EMPLOYER INFORMATION

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer)

# WHAT IS THE SUMMER PROGRAMME?

This programme runs from May to the end of June 2026, and is open to our 2025 graduates as well as those graduating in 2026.

We're looking to work closely with local employers and organisations to offer high-quality projects that make a real impact on your business. At the same time, the programme provides valuable support to graduates who may face additional barriers when accessing Highly Skilled Employment (HSE), including those from under-represented groups.

Starting in May, participants will take part in a series of professional development activities and training sessions. These are designed to prepare them for working on a development project throughout June, helping them to build key skills and gain meaningful work experience for their future.

**“The benefits of having LBU graduates on a project have been immeasurable! The work the participants have done is astonishing in such a short space of time — they really were engaged and have produced excellent work. The Council will benefit massively from the work they have provided. The details and amount of work in such a small space of time is outstanding.”**

*Leeds City Council — Adult Services*



# HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART?

We're looking to work with employers who can offer a developmental project to a small group of graduates with at least 3 participants.

## WHAT WILL YOU GAIN?

- Access to a diverse talent pool of graduates who can bring new insights, perspectives, and ideas.
- Explore new ways to diversify your future workforce to align with organisational priorities focused on improving equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- The ideas generated through these projects can offer real value in helping to address key challenges within your organisation.
- A maximum of 60 hours per graduate working on a real-world project with your organisation (including time spent on developmental activities).
- The programme also aligns well with the corporate social responsibility objectives set by many organisations.

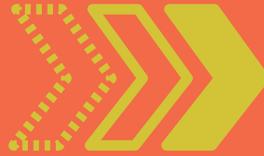
## WHAT DO WE ASK FROM YOU?

Organisations offering a project will be asked to provide:

- An induction for participants, ideally onsite, that outlines your project, introduces your organisation, and provides a clear explanation of your expectations regarding project outputs.
- A project that is likely to take about 50 hours of time per participant to complete.
- Developmental opportunities such as training, mentoring, work shadowing, introductions, totalling around 10 hours. The Beckett Careers team can also support this.
- Feedback to participants on their project output.



# WHAT PROJECTS WORK WELL?



The projects should be graduate-level — challenging yet achievable within the 60-hour timeframe.

The Leeds Beckett University Summer Graduate Programme aims to develop the participants’:

- **Confidence**
- **Professionalism**
- **Employability and career development learning**
- **Communication and interpersonal skills**

Over the past four years, the most successful projects have included data evaluation and report writing, people engagement, social media and marketing activities, and organising future events. We have also seen excellence in project outcomes when graduates have supported business functions, such as finance, HR, and marketing teams.

Success is also supported by having clear aims and objectives for your project, along with a supervisor who is available throughout to provide guidance and answer questions.

It’s valuable for our participants to experience an office working environment for at least part of their project. However, some organisations have also delivered highly successful remote projects.

“Participants allocated to our projects were excellent in terms of overall professionalism, engagement and challenging their own comfort zones. Naturally they all had different levels of confidence and availability over the 3 weeks, but we were glad to involve them in as many opportunities as possible which they fully embraced. If anything, we would have chosen to work with the interns for longer.”

*Go Higher West Yorkshire*

## PREVIOUS PROJECTS

AREA	PROJECTS
Marketing and Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Create promotional videos.</li> <li>&gt; Social media projects for a range of organisations.</li> <li>&gt; Content creation for websites.</li> </ul>
Social and Market Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Social Research for a range of organisations.</li> <li>&gt; Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF).</li> <li>&gt; Student gambling project.</li> </ul>
Market research for new initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; The industry and skillsets needed in the UK space sector.</li> <li>&gt; An organisation’s sustainability impact.</li> <li>&gt; Social Corporate Governance.</li> <li>&gt; Clients - political/geopolitical/cultural differences.</li> <li>&gt; Loyalty, happiness, contentment at work in young</li> </ul>
Support business functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Support the launch of a new business.</li> <li>&gt; Audit the finance system for a university department.</li> <li>&gt; Develop a recruitment and outreach plan to attract young people.</li> <li>&gt; Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) research.</li> </ul>
Review of services provided by charities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Review and analysis of client services.</li> <li>&gt; Review of neurodivergent offer.</li> <li>&gt; Assessing the impact of mental health and wellbeing services.</li> <li>&gt; Analysis of client use of repeat appointments.</li> </ul>
For Leeds City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Collecting and analysing data for the deployment of the Social Value Fund scheme.</li> <li>&gt; Process Mapping for Adults and Health and Housing.</li> <li>&gt; Contract Manager Survey.</li> <li>&gt; AI-powered technology - government contracting.</li> <li>&gt; Digital access to employee services.</li> <li>&gt; Evaluate the impact of the Healthy Holidays programme.</li> </ul>

# WHO ARE OUR PARTNERS?

Over the past four years, we have been proud to collaborate with:



Community First  
Yorkshire



CREATEBritain

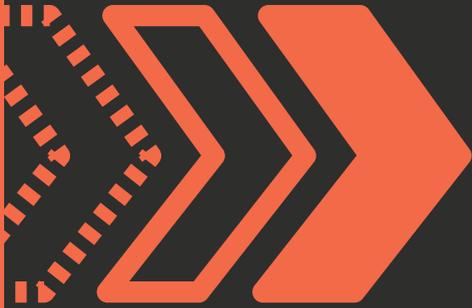


StepChange  
Debt Charity



WEST YORKSHIRE  
POLICE





# STEPS TO CREATE A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

## 1. IDENTIFY A NEED OR CHALLENGE THAT YOU AND/OR YOUR TEAM ARE FACING.

*Example: Lack of resources to analyse data collected over the past year. Important information needed for funding bids.*

## 2. CLARIFY THE AIMS OR DESIRED OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT.

*Example: Collate and analyse the data to produce a report and key recommendations.*

## 3. LIST THE TASKS REQUIRED TO GET THE PROJECT COMPLETED.

*Example:*

- > Collect data from 5 different surveys and use MS Excel to produce and format consistent data.
- > Research the proposed funding bids to identify and agree the information required.
- > Collate and analyse the data to produce a report and 3 key recommendations.
- > Present your findings in a report to the Board.

## 4. OUTLINE WHAT SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE ARE REQUIRED.

*Example:*

- > MS Excel and data analysis.
- > Report writing.
- > Understanding of how charities are funded.

## 5. CONSIDER WHAT RESOURCES YOU NEED IN TERMS OF SUPERVISION AND ACCOMMODATION.

*Example:*

- > One colleague available during the project to support and be able to answer questions.
- > Access to IT systems, laptops and buildings.
- > Desk space (projects can be hybrid or remote).

## 6. IDENTIFY SOME PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

*Example:*

- > Offer CV checks and interview practice.
- > Invite to meetings or offer work shadowing.
- > Enable access to internal training.

**“Overall, it was a rewarding experience. The participants brought fresh ideas and energy to the project. We’d happily recommend this programme to other businesses.”**

*Jenny Barry — Jenny’s Jerk Chicken*

# PROJECT GUIDANCE

Once you've been through the step-by-step guidelines to creating a successful project, the following questions can help you check and clarify some of the structure around the work.

- Is the work graduate-level?
- Can it be completed between 1-19 June? This would be two weeks full-time or three weeks part-time.
- Can you accommodate three participants which would mean a total of 180 hours for your project?
- Do you have the resource to supervise the participants? This means a designated colleague who can offer support and answer questions.
- Do you have space to accommodate them in your workspace, if appropriate? We can provide workspace at Leeds Beckett if required.
- Can you offer a few hours of professional development activities? For example, CV checking, allowing graduates to attend meetings, work shadowing, interview practice, and/or access to staff training.
- Will the project help develop confidence, professionalism, employability, communication and interpersonal skills?

Over the past four years, we've overseen over 70 projects for the Summer Graduate Programme, so we know what is likely to be successful and what isn't. If you have not provided a project before but would like to take part, please consider joining one of our Information Sessions or requesting a meeting with the Beckett Careers team to discuss your ideas at [gradcareers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:gradcareers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

# THE TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
Feb-March	Join an Information Session or individual meeting to discuss your project.
By 27 March	Submit your project brief(s).
By 1 April	LBU and PP confirm project and work pattern.
13-24 April	Participants apply for the programme and choose projects.
By 5 May	LBU confirm participants for each project to the PPs
5-8 May	> PPs invite participants for interview and site visit or remote induction. > PPs have initial check-in with nominated LBU contact.
11-15 May	Participants attend interview and site visit or remote induction.
By 15 May	PPs confirm participants for their project.
18-22 May	Participants attend professional development and training sessions.
1-19 June	Projects take place - with various work patterns - 60 hours.
Mid-June	PPs have check-in with nominated LBU colleague.
22 June	PPs join us for pizza on Consolidation Day.
By 3 July	PPs to provide feedback to LBU.

LBU: Leeds Beckett University

PP: Project Provider

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHY CAN'T I CHOOSE WHICH PARTICIPANTS DO MY PROJECT?

The aim of the programme is to provide local employers with fresh talent to work on a need or challenge that you are facing. We also aim to provide valuable professional work experience for each participant. It is not intended to be a competitive process so we aim to avoid the situation where individuals are rejected from projects and therefore without a place.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS DURING THE PROJECT?

Before the projects start, you will be assigned an LBU colleague who will be your point of contact before, during, and after the project. This enables you to voice any concerns as quickly as possible.

## IT SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK OR A BIG COMMITMENT?!

We can work with you to ensure that you have a strong project brief and everything in place to ensure that the project runs smoothly. We suggest that you use the checklist above to be confident that you have the resource to run the project. The vast majority of our Project Providers have been surprised and delighted by the high standard of work produced by the participants and the impact that this has had on their organisation.

## IS THERE ANY FINANCIAL COMMITMENT?

No. LBU offers a bursary to eligible participants to cover costs such as travel, childcare, clothing and loss of earnings from part-time jobs.

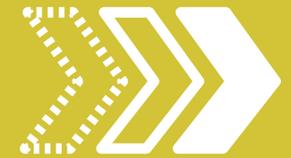
## IS THERE AN EXPECTATION THAT WE OFFER A JOB AT THE END OF THE PROJECT?

There is no expectation but we are always delighted when it happens! Some of our previous Project Providers have offered jobs immediately and others have offered opportunities after a few months, when they have a vacancy.

## I'M CONCERNED THAT THE PARTICIPANTS MAY NOT HAVE ANY WORK EXPERIENCE.

Most of our students and graduates work but not necessarily in graduate-level jobs. Most will have a part-time job as a student and many will continue with that until they find something that fits better with their career plans. This can take time and this opportunity to gain professional work experience and make new contacts can make a huge difference.

## WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE



If you'd like to get involved, we're delighted to welcome you onboard. Simply go to [leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer) to express your interest in providing a project by filling out a short form. You'll also be able to join one of our Information Sessions that run through February to March. These are for you to find out more and ask any questions. Alternatively, if you're unable to attend an Information Session, please contact us directly to arrange a meeting.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Email: [gradcareers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:gradcareers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Website: [leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/gradsummer)



## SHARE YOUR STORY

Once you've partnered with us, you're invited to pass on your experience for others to find out more about what it's like to take part in the Summer Graduate Programme. Get in touch at [gradcareers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:gradcareers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

FOLLOW US @BECKETTCAREERS



## CONTACT DETAILS

### Beckett Careers

Email: [careers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:careers@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

Website: [leedsbeckett.ac.uk/careers](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk/careers)



@BeckettCareers