

DERBY COLLEGE GROUP'S COLLABORATION WITH PENTA HOTELS ON SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS



DERBY COLLEGE GROUP

Overview of the Collaboration

Derby College Group is committed to enhancing the employability of its students through innovative partnerships with local businesses. The collaboration with Penta Hotels Derby on the Supported Internship programme exemplifies this commitment, providing students with meaningful work experiences that prepare them for successful careers. This case study outlines how Derby College Group worked closely with Penta Hotels Derby to ensure the programme's success and highlights the positive outcomes for both students and the hotel.

Attraction to the Programme

Derby College Group recognises the importance of bridging the gap between education and employment, particularly for students who face barriers to entering the workforce. The Supported Internship programme was identified as an ideal initiative to help students gain practical experience in a real-world setting. Penta Hotels Derby, with its strong focus on community engagement and hospitality, was an ideal partner. The college was drawn to the hotel's commitment to offering students the chance to experience the hospitality industry firsthand, especially during a time when the sector was recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Implementation of the Internship

Derby College Group played a pivotal role in the smooth implementation of the Supported Internship programme at Penta Hotels Derby. The College provided comprehensive support to both the interns and the hotel management team, ensuring that the programme was accessible and beneficial for all parties involved. This support included the assignment of dedicated job coaches who worked closely with the hotel to monitor the interns' progress and address any challenges that arose. The college's collaborative approach made the setup

process straightforward, allowing Penta Hotels Derby to focus on delivering a meaningful and enriching experience for the interns.

Impact on Students

The partnership with Penta Hotels Derby had a significant impact on the students involved in the Supported Internship programme. Through their internships, Katie and Ashleigh were able to develop crucial skills and gain confidence in a professional environment. The hands-on experience provided by the hotel allowed them to explore various roles within the hospitality industry, helping them to clarify their career aspirations and build a strong foundation for future employment. Derby College Group closely monitored their progress, ensuring that the internship was tailored to meet their individual needs and goals.

Staff Development and Mentorship

The success of the Supported Internship programme was also reflected in the professional development of Penta Hotels Derby's staff, who acted as mentors or "buddies" to the interns. Derby College Group worked with the hotel to identify suitable mentors, ensuring that they were well-equipped to guide and support the interns. The mentoring experience was mutually beneficial, providing the hotel staff with opportunities for leadership and personal growth while helping the interns navigate their new roles. The college facilitated regular communication between the mentors and job coaches, fostering a supportive environment that contributed to the programme's success.



Long-term Partnership and Recommendations

Derby College Group views its collaboration with Penta Hotels Derby as a long-term commitment to fostering the employability of its students. The positive outcomes of the Supported Internship programme have reinforced the college's belief in the value of such partnerships. As a result, Derby College Group highly recommends the Supported Internship programme to other employers, regardless of their industry. The college is keen to continue and expand its collaboration with Penta Hotels Derby, confident that the partnership will continue to deliver significant benefits for students and the local community.

Conclusion

The partnership between Derby College Group and Penta Hotels Derby has proven to be a successful and mutually beneficial endeavour. The Supported Internship programme not only provided valuable opportunities for students to gain practical experience but also strengthened the ties between the college and the local business community. Derby College Group is committed to continuing this collaboration, ensuring that more students can benefit from similar opportunities in the future, while also contributing to the ongoing success of the hospitality industry.



INCLUSION AT DCG
ENABLING EMPLOYABILITY

KATIE STOCKER

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Company Overview and My Role

I interned at a Penta Hotel, handling bar duties and breakfast shifts. Behind the bar, I served drinks and snacks. While during breakfast, I ensured guests were satisfied with their buffet experience and felt welcome.

How the Internship Helped Me

The internship was both a challenge and a great opportunity. Initially, I worked unpaid while studying to become a learning support assistant. However, I loved the hotel's supportive environment and asked about part-time work, which led to a permanent role. The staff made me feel welcome, and I've never been happier in a job.

Personal and Professional Growth

The internship helped me find work I enjoy and boosted my confidence. I now feel secure in my career, surrounded by supportive colleagues.

Most Valuable Aspects

The combination of classroom learning and hands-on experience was invaluable. Both helped me develop skills and find work I love.

Advice for a Friend

I'd recommend a Supported Internship to anyone struggling. It improved my communication, independence, and job prospects, and I believe it could do the same for others.

Recommending the Program

Yes, I would recommend it. It helps students achieve their goals and become more independent.

Career Influence

Although I initially wanted to be a teaching assistant, working at the hotel made me realise how much I love the hospitality industry. It led me to a job where I feel truly happy and fulfilled.



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Please contact us today to find out more.

Call: 0800 028 0289 and ask to speak to an Inclusion Job Coach or email: jobcoaches@derby-college.ac.uk