

The Enterprising Internships Programme gives students the opportunity to work in a Social Enterprise within the West Midlands during the summer.

Hannah Grounds, a Final Year student studying BA Sociology, undertook a four week internship at Evolve as a Social Impact Analyst. Evolve work to improve educational attainment, increase levels of physical activity and work to reduce youth unemployment by working with primary schools across the country.

What were your main achievements?

'My main achievement of the internship would definitely be the production of the social impact reports for the 146 schools Evolve works with by liaising with Directors, Regional Managers and Health Mentors in order to measure the impact 'Health Mentors' were having on the schools and its pupils, which brought to attention numerous others areas that the company need to be more involved with, especially as a social enterprise. However, I have also had numerous other achievements too. For example assistance on a project based around enhancing, improving, and utilising social media platforms more effectively for Evolve to improve company awareness and sales has been great.'

John Bishop (Employer):

'Hannah is positive, hardworking and a great ambassador for the university. She showed lots of maturity in developing relationships with co-workers within our office space.'

Key achievements and skills gained: 'Managing to meet different deadlines for different people and projects helped enhance my **time management** and **organisational skills**. When working with people in different parts of the company on a regular basis clarity of **communication** and content is very important and I think this skill has definitely been improved. My **creativity** has also been better established. The internship I completed had never been done before so the report I was working on needed a lot of **innovation** and new ideas to be thrown at it. Lastly, I think my **networking skills** have been enriched as a result of completing the internship. Working and liaising with numerous different companies gave me the chance to interact and communicate with people of similar interests and backgrounds. This has encouraged me to network more and has helped improve my networking capabilities.'



Hannah Grounds (Intern): *'I think it would be quite scary going into a career straight after university without any connections so I think it's always really nice to have the university as the middle ground between the student and the employer, which just makes things a little less daunting.'*

Working for a Social Enterprise:

'I like the fact that working within a Social Enterprise, there isn't a massive amount of structure and there is a lot of leeway to do other things as opposed to the corporate world of work. I have been involved in a diverse range of tasks and every day is different. For example I was in a school last week, I met with branding agencies this week, there are a lot of things to keep it interesting.'

Benefits of being involved in the Enterprising Internships programme:

'The social enterprise internship is a great way for students to interact with employers in an area that interests them. As social enterprises are really quickly becoming more prominent in the world of work I think having first-hand experience of working within one will be advantageous, especially for the sort of career I envisage myself in. I completed a Sociology degree which was research based, so being able to apply the skills I acquired throughout university in a workplace was invaluable. I think having the academic aspect of my degree alongside a relevant internship will have definitely made me a **more employable graduate for the future.**'

Hannah has continued to work at Evolve following undertaking the Enterprising Internship position, having secured a Santander Match funded internship!