

CASE STUDY

KnowledgeEast Graduate Internship Scheme

University Of East London, Employability & Enterprise Team



Ben Kersey
BA (Hons) Modern and Contemporary History

About me

My name is Ben Kersey and I graduated in 2009 from Queen Mary University in Modern and Contemporary History. I chose to study this further as it was one of my favourite subjects at school and college.

My KnowledgeEast Internship experience

The KnowledgeEast Graduate Programme ran a good workshop prior to the internship that dealt with interviewing techniques and also looked at my CV. They were able to highlight the problems of my CV and helped me to reconstruct the presentation so that the information on my CV showed me to my fullest potential. I really enjoyed the KnowledgeEast Graduate Programme as it gave someone like me the opportunity to gain experience in a job that I did not think of.

Working on this placement also meant that I was given insight into the early stages of opening a business and learned directly from an experienced management team. My experience on my placement also gave me the chance to carry out market research which built on my analysing skills from my degree. I also enjoyed talking to new people and this helped me with my communicative skills which I can take on to my future career.

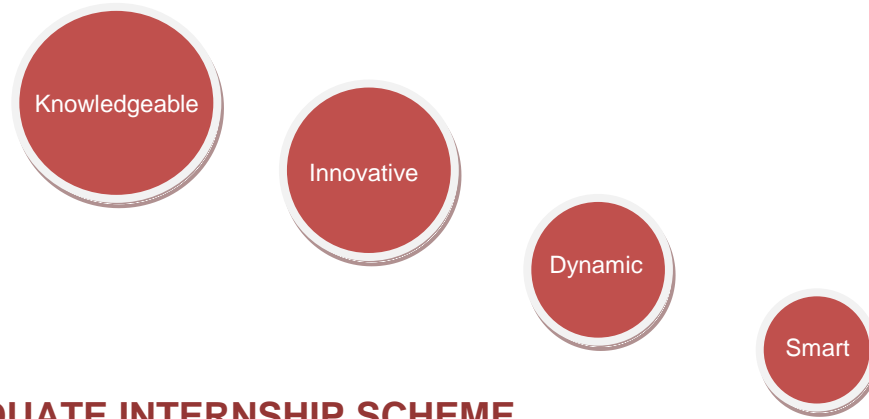
My placement has provided me with various skills and experience and I found it motivating to work with a start-up company as there were many opportunity for me to give my own in-put.

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My future

The internship has definitely wetted my appetite for research and it has opened up another avenue which I never thought of therefore I hope to have a job along the lines of Research.

Placing smart, dynamic graduates into forward thinking businesses...



Knowledge
East

ABOUT KNOWLEDGEEAST GRADUATE INTERNSHIP SCHEME

In December 2009, a UEL-led collaborative bid on behalf of the KnowledgeEast HEI partnership was awarded funding to provide internship opportunities for unemployed graduates. Over the next 9 months, 500 paid internship opportunities will be created for recent graduates in local SMEs or larger businesses. This will be a valuable first step into the workplace for graduates who are entering the workplace in a challenging economic climate.

Recent graduates from the partner HEIs will be contacted about the project and invited to apply through a competitive process. The graduates showing most potential will be invited to attend a one day Preparation for Employment Event, followed by a one day Assessment Centre. The purpose of the two events is to ensure that the graduates are 'employer-ready' and that they are assigned to an internship where they have a high chance of success. The project will be very employer-focused to increase the possibility of the internship being converted into a full time post.

Through the KnowledgeEast partnership, the project will draw on the expertise of a range of colleagues in both the Careers/Employability and Enterprise teams of the partner HEIs. This project will complement and build on existing activity, including the work of the Knowledge East Enterprise Network (KEEN), our existing collaborative ECIF programme and the TGLP Internship Pilot delivered in 2008/9.

Femi Bola, UEL's Director of Employability said "The KnowledgeEast Graduate Internship Scheme presents a great opportunity for UEL to lead a scheme to help tackle one of the pressing issues of the moment, graduate unemployment, whilst continuing to build our understanding and expertise in the area of graduate level employability skills."