

CASE STUDY

KnowledgeEast Graduate
Internship Scheme

University Of East London, Employability & Enterprise Team

Knowledge
East



James Leahy
BSc (Hons) Multimedia,
Technology and Design

About me

My name is James Leahy and I graduated from The University of Kent in Multimedia, Technology and Design. I chose this degree with the intention to learn web design and to learn about media however as the degree went on I began to enjoy the media aspect of my studies more.

My KnowledgeEast Internship Experience

I really enjoyed my placement as I was given different things to do every day. It was exciting to wake up and not know what I would be doing next since everything was a new experience for me. If I had the opportunity to do this again I would definitely do it given that this was such a great experience for me and that it has allowed me to gain a great reference for future employment.

It was also a good placement for me as it gave me the opportunity to improve on my media skills such as handling the camera and learning new techniques. It also

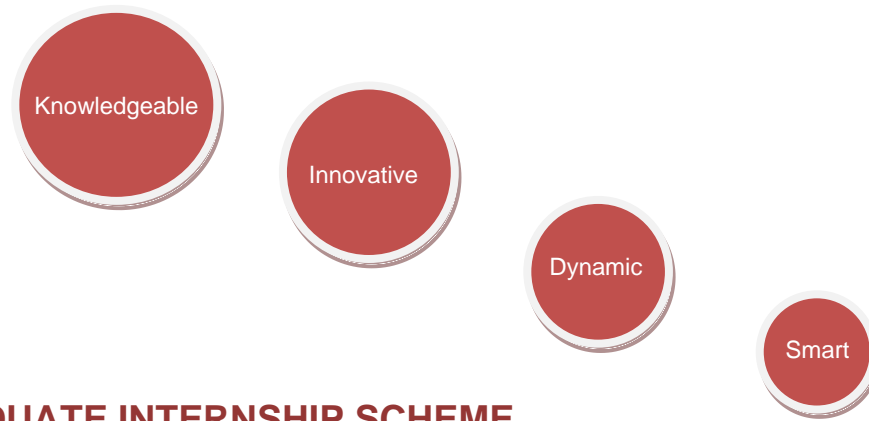
helped me to improve on my people skills as out on location I had to deal with giving and receiving instructions to carry out the task in hand. For me personally the intern scheme was well placed and I had no hassle and found the process to be really easy and quick. I'm glad I took part in the placement as I was able to build on the skills and experience needed for my future career.

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My future

In the future I would like to work within media for a major television network. I feel that this experience has given me the opportunity to gain experience both as a reference as well as building on skills needed to construct my career on.

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



Knowledge
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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."