

CASE STUDY

KnowledgeEast Graduate Internship Scheme



Olivia Harness-Clarke
BA Hons Architecture

About me

My name is Olivia and I completed a BSc honours degree from the University of East London. My passion for drawing and creativity started from a very young age. Initially I wanted to pursue a career as a barrister and help people. After some thought it became apparent that I can also help people through my gift for drawing and creativity by creating beautiful and unique spaces that can better lives.

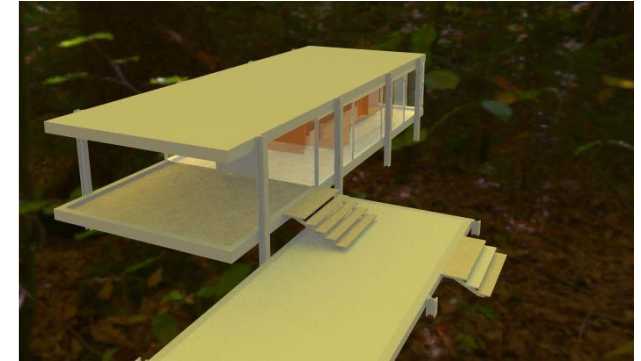
My KnowledgeEast Internship experience

I am really enjoying my placement and very grateful for the opportunity. My placement has provided me with various skills and experience in CAD (the use of computer technology for the design of real or virtual objects), conducting surveys and preparing proposals, general office duties and understanding the overheads of running an office. The placement has also enabled me to understand how drawings are used to obtain planning permission.

The information sessions that the Employability Team held prior to the placement really helped me with my CV and mock interview skills. More than any training I had attended previously, in my opinion I'd say Knowledge East are the best for graduates.

My future

My next steps are to continue with my placement and complete my Postgraduate diploma in architecture (RIBA part 2). My placement has ended and the company has offered me an unpaid internship. This practical experience I have gained through the Knowledge East internship scheme will assist me with my diploma and also my future career. My long-term goal is to become self-employed and set up an architectural firm.



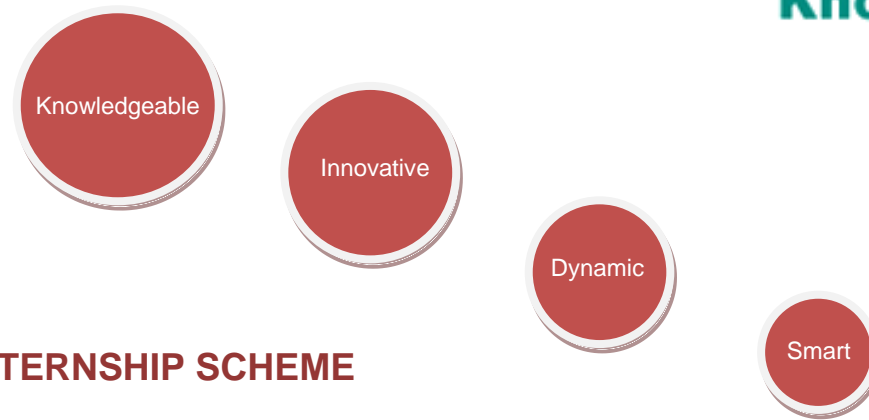
CAD design by Olivia

Prior to this opportunity I have been trying to find a placement within an architecture firm for the last two years. So I am extremely grateful for the opportunity Knowledge East has given me as times are hard and I don't know what I'd be doing now if I hadn't accidentally stumbled across the scheme whilst searching the internet for internships.

Knowledge
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“The placement has enabled me to obtain various skills and further develop my skills “

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



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."