**The Autism Project (TAP) is a full-time, two-year, employability programme for young people on the autistic spectrum, aged 18-25.**

Our aim is to make the journey towards and into employment seamless and flexible in order to better meet the individual needs of students.

**The project year runs September to July and all students follow our supported internship curriculum for their first term** and typically students will spend 3 terms (their first year) following this: they will learn within real work experience placements within either The Whittington Hospital and/or Guy’s and St. Thomas’ hospitals four days a week, supported by work-place mentors and specialist job coaches and spend one day a week in class where they learn valuable employability and independent living skills and work towards City & Guilds qualifications. The objective is for young people to become ‘work-ready’ and to have gained a reference from their workplace.

**Students’ progress to the Year two curriculum once ‘work-ready’, typically in term 4,** where the focus is on greater independence in the workplace and to support students to develop the skills and confidence and to actively seek and hopefully gain paid employment, an apprenticeship or further training of choice.

**TAP staff use person centred planning and our aim is to help all students reach their individual goals** as defined in their Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP). Class based learning is being developed in termly modules so that students can move from year one to year two curriculum at their own speed. This also means we will be able to accept students at the beginning of both terms 1 and 2.

All students will have the opportunity to meet with TAP staff prior to starting the programme and will have an induction suited to their individual needs. All learners are required to have an EHCP in place\* and will be DBS checked. Any additional support needs should be discussed when applying to ensure the correct support is in place prior to starting. We accept referrals from Local Authorities and directly from young people. In order to secure a place on the project, young people will need to have an Education, Health and Care Plan; for advice about requesting this, please go to <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/what-you-need-to-know/ehc-plans>

**Year one the focus is on becoming work ready and includes**

* 4 days a week work placement within Guy’s or St. Thomas’ hospitals, supported by trained work-place mentors and managers.
* Close support and supervision from work-place mentor and regular visits from TAP Coordinator or Job Coach.
* One-day classroom based teaching where students learn City & Guilds Employability Skills qualifications (this includes communication in the work place, dress codes, CV writing and applying for jobs) and Functional Skills (if required).

(students are grouped according to appropriate study level).

* Enrichment Activities such as visiting careers events, travel training, going on and organising social outings

**Year two the focus is on finding and securing work of choice and includes:**

* weekly one to one job search support from our employment team (please note students will be set homework)
* 2 days a week work experience or a volunteering placement in a new environment and with lower levels of support from work-place staff than in Year one
* Regular visits from TAP Coordinator or Job Coach in the work-place
* Employability workshops and continued progression to a relevant City & Guilds Employability qualification and functional skills (as required)
* Relevant vocational training such as First Aid, manual handling and food hygiene
* Participation in our corporate mock interview programme to develop confidence for interviews
* Support at job interviews (optional)
* Enrichment Activities such as healthy eating, further travel training if required, planning and going on social outings
* Ongoing support in employment once work is secured, as required
* Support with moving on (employment, apprenticeship, further training, volunteering, accessing relevant support)

**A Typical Student Week in Yr 1** (please note these will vary from student to student)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Morning** | **Afternoon** |
| **Monday** | Work placement  | Work placement |
| **Tuesday** | Employability Class (9.30-12.30) | Functional Skills (1.30-4.30) if required  |
| **Wednesday** | Work Placement/counselling session(if requested) | Work Placement |
| **Thursday** | Work Placement | Work Placement |
| **Friday** | Work placement | Work placement |

**A Typical Student Week in Yr 2** (please note these will vary from student to student)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Morning** | **Afternoon** |
| **Monday** | Work placement/Job Searching  | Work placement/Job Searching |
| **Tuesday** | Work Placement | Work Placement |
| **Wednesday** | Job Club | Counselling session (optional) |
| **Thursday** | Employability Class (9.30-12.30) | Functional Skills (1.30-4.30) if required |
| **Friday** | Enrichment Activity *(bi-weekly)/* Work Placement | Work Placement |

**For further information and to discuss admissions please contact**

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