Smart Futures
A great paid experience of work for young people
Smart Futures is available in a number of locations across the UK and expanding every year.

39 UK employers were involved in the Smart Futures programme in 2014.

98% of young people said Smart Futures contributed to their development.

98% of Smart Futures students would recommend the programme to their friends.
Smart Futures offers you an opportunity to have a great paid experience of work. It is a ten month programme which starts with three weeks paid work experience this summer. You will gain a variety of transferable skills that will give you a head start in your career. Smart Futures can make you more employable, helping you to get a job after school or go onto higher education.

An EY Foundation mentor will support you throughout the ten months to advise you on one of the biggest career choices you will make - the first step in your working life. You will also be invited to a series of alumni events throughout your final year at school.

Criteria...

- Currently in Year 12 (England) or Fifth Year (Scotland) at school
- Ambitious and motivated to join the world of work and have a career
- Looking for a great paid work experience this summer that will help you secure a job after school, or a place at university
- In receipt of free school meals, or the first in your immediate family to consider university
- Predicted 300 UCAS points (or equivalent)
- Have achieved a grade B or above in GCSE/a minimum of a Standard grade 2 in Mathematics and English Language

“Smart Futures is a programme that recognises the importance of investing in the futures of the next generation: giving bright and ambitious young people like me a chance to shine regardless of their background.”

Rosie, Smart Futures London alumnus
Smart Futures is for people like...

Adam
Smart Futures London alumnus
“I didn’t think I’d have a chance [getting onto Smart Futures] a boy from a state comprehensive in East London. How wrong could I have been?”

Nicola
Smart Futures Yorkshire alumnus
“I would definitely recommend this programme to anyone thinking of applying. It’s great for your CV, gives you an insight into the business world and develops skills you can use anywhere.”

Akhil
Smart Futures Edinburgh alumnus
“It has been wonderful and I would urge anyone who is even remotely thinking about doing the programme to sign up. It is great fun and you will learn invaluable skills.”

Katherine
Smart Futures London alumnus
“Throughout the programme I was given opportunities to think outside the box, lead, learn and network and most importantly how to transfer these valuable skills into the workplace.”

Read more about Adam, Nicola, Akhil and Katherine’s experiences on the Smart Futures programme at eyfoundation.co.uk/smartfutures
You will pick up new ideas and skills, growing your business and commercial awareness. Sessions will be delivered by some big name employers from a range of industries which could include financial services, the arts and law.

Go to eyfoundation.co.uk/smartfutures for a full list of organisations previously involved in the programme.

It starts here...

Your three weeks paid work experience kicks off at one of EY’s UK offices - your designated hub for this part of the programme. From day one you will quickly learn the skills required to deliver high quality work and present in front of audiences. Innovative and interactive sessions will cover business skills including:

- Networking
- Team building
- Brainstorming
- Leadership
- Presenting to an audience

“Week one includes a number of workshops which teach you valuable professional skills through practical tasks. Our sessions were run by EY employees or by other businesses in a number of prestigious locations across the city. Each day I worked with different people, learning to interact, communicate and present in both professional and social environments.”

Katherine, Smart Futures London alumnus

You will be working from
09:30 - 16:30
Mon-Fri for three weeks...
The Smart Futures experience  
Week two

You will work in teams to solve real business issues, presenting your findings to influencers and business leaders who represent a variety of organisations and industries. You’ll have an opportunity to:

► Learn more about different areas of work and gain insight into a range of professions like marketing and recruitment

► Use the skills developed in week one to present ideas and solutions to real business issues to a panel of judges representing different organisations and industries

► Learn what it takes to succeed in enterprise: being employed doesn’t always mean working for an organisation, find out what it takes to become an entrepreneur and set up your own business

“I expected to be sitting around being taught everything in a classroom but in fact it was totally different. We did a lot of group exercises that helped our group skills, allowed us to interact with each other and meet new people easily.”

Lorraine, Smart Futures Edinburgh alumnus

#EYFSmartFutures
This is when all the business skills you have learnt on the programme are really put to the test. You will spend the week working with a team getting hands on business experience, from pitching to win new work, to creating a marketing campaign or helping an entrepreneur with a business issue they face. Most students tell us this is the best part of the entire programme.

“The week working in the business has been an amazing experience. I have been able to learn skills while meeting some world renowned firms. This week has also made me realise how fun the business world can be, although it is often portrayed as a very serious and formal career path, the people I worked with were friendly, fun and informal.”

Akhil, Smart Futures Edinburgh alumnus

You will round off the week at a graduation ceremony with your new friends and colleagues to celebrate all of your amazing achievements.
Wait, there's more...

Your Smart Futures experience does not end there

meet the mentors

During the first three weeks of the programme you will be introduced to your EY Foundation mentor, who will provide you with support and encouragement throughout your final school year, as you make decisions about higher education and your career. You will also be invited to a series of Smart Futures alumni events during your final year at school to further your experience and networks.

Nick
Audit Manager in Financial Services at EY

Devyani
Senior Manager in Advisory at EY

“Seeing Alfie transform from someone unsure about his future and unaware of options available to him as a sixth former, into someone who gained a place on EY’s School Leaver Programme through his own hard work, has been amazing. I’ve got a lot out of the experience too. Knowing that I have had a positive influence on Alfie’s development makes me feel incredibly proud.”

“I met Jordan for an hour every month; discussing career choices and options post A level. He is now at the University of Southampton studying Biochemistry. Jordan says having a mentor gave him an objective sounding board to make tough decisions and helped him think differently about his options.”
I’m ready for a great experience of work, what next?

Do you meet the eligibility criteria on page 3? Then apply today.

How do I apply?

Applications start online at eyfoundation.co.uk/smartfutures

The application process is designed to demonstrate what it takes to successfully apply for a job in a business. There are lots of hints and tips on how to successfully complete the application process. If you have any queries about applying you can email us with your questions smartfutures@eyfoundation.ey.com

The application process

► Complete and submit an online application form eyfoundation.co.uk/smartfutures
► If your application is successful you will be asked to take a series of strengths and psychometric based tests online
► Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview

Tip: prepare before applying by using the online resources and practice tests available on our website
The Smart Futures experience can continue beyond school. Your EY Foundation mentor will be able to explore all the various career options available to you on completing your A Levels/Highers.

Smart Futures has a proven track record of getting young people into employment. The skills you develop, networks you make and confidence you build, will help to prepare you for the world of work.

So what are you waiting for? Find out more about Smart Futures and submit your application at eyfoundation.co.uk/SmartFutures

“Smart Futures is a chance to experience and explore business in a way most people will never have the chance to. We came onto the programme as kids, with an interest to learn. Yet we all left as young adults, with experiences that will help mould our lives in the future.”

Adam, Smart Futures London alumnus

Whatever path you choose after Smart Futures, we hope that the experience you have on the programme will help you in your future career and that the skills you learn will last a lifetime.
97% of young people say Smart Futures gave them a **better understanding** of how to behave at work.

71% of Smart Futures alumni **successfully achieved** a place at uni or their first job.

98% of young people said they will get **into the career of their choice** because of the programme.

97% of young people said they have an **advantage over their peers** when it comes to getting a job because of Smart Futures.
The EY Foundation

About EY Foundation

The EY Foundation (EYF) is a UK registered charity that works directly with disadvantaged young people, employers and social entrepreneurs to create or support pathways to education, employment or enterprise. EYF is an independent UK charity that builds and delivers programmes, working with third parties and volunteers. EYF operates and is incorporated independently of EY and is governed by a separate trustee board.

The EY Foundation is a charitable company registered in England and Wales and Scotland with registered charity number 1157154 and SC045076. It is also a member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.

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