

## Doing work experience at CERN

*STFC manages the UK's membership of CERN. The following advice has been put together by STFC to help UK school students who are interested in undertaking a work experience placement at CERN.*

CERN doesn't have an official, advertised work experience programme for school students.

However, lots of students do come to CERN for work experience every year. Most are from local schools or exploit family connections, but students with no existing link are also welcome.



Here are some tips for getting a placement:

### Do's

1. Do your research; make sure you know what's new at CERN by following the organisation and the LHC experiments on social media. Read blogs and websites such as  
[www.cern.ch](http://www.cern.ch)  
<http://atlas.ch/blog/>  
<http://cylindricalonion.web.cern.ch/>  
<https://lifeandphysics.com/>  
<https://cosmicshambles.com/blogs>
2. Be clear about what you want to do – accelerator physics, experimental physics, scientific computing, civil, cryogenic, electrical, mechanical or vacuum engineering.
3. Depending on your area of interest, identify engineers, physicists and technicians who are working on projects that sound interesting and contact them e.g. "I'd really like to do work experience with you because..."
4. If you plan to go to university and you've already thought about which one you want to apply to, find out if they are part of any CERN experiments by checking the CERN Greybook <https://greybook.cern.ch/greybook/>. It will look good on your UCAS application if you've already met people from the university's physics, computing or engineering department and you know about one of its projects.
5. Write the letter/email yourself – it's not your parent, carer or teacher that wants to do work experience!
6. If you get offered a placement, make sure you return all the paperwork promptly.

### **Don'ts**

7. Don't write a 'Dear CERN' letter – the internal mail service will have no idea where to deliver it.
8. Don't expect practical help such as finding accommodation from your work experience supervisor – CERN has a useful list of hotels which includes whether or not the hotel offers a shuttle to CERN <http://gs-dep.web.cern.ch/en/hotels-rates>. NB sometimes the room rates on the hotels' own websites may be lower. If your school has a network of former students, check whether any of them live in Geneva and would be willing to accommodate a current student.

### **Practicalities**

9. You will have to meet all your own travel and subsistence costs – unfortunately there isn't any funding available from either CERN or STFC.
10. If you are 16 or under, you will need to have a parent or other responsible adult in/around CERN throughout your placement (they won't be with you during the day when you're with CERN staff, but CERN will not accept responsibility for you outside work hours).
11. CERN straddles the French-Swiss border and depending on where you are working/staying will depend on which currency you need. Both of CERN's main sites have banks and cash machines.

**Good luck!**