



Preparing learners with autism for employment

Specialist Traineeships in:

- Performing arts
- Media publication
- Clothes making & repairs



FULL AND PART TIME COURSES AVAILABLE
RECRUITING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2015

Develop skills for work and independent life

ESPA College is recruiting students now to join its Specialist Traineeship programmes starting in September 2015.

The scheme, for young adults aged 16-24 with ASC, combines practical work experience and essential employability skills in a non-academic vocational programme delivered by autism specialists.

The three traineeships are in:

- Performing arts
- Media publication
- Clothes making & repairs.

They are all offered on a full and part-time basis (three days or five days per week) and usually last two years.

Equipping trainees with their own set of skills to promote development in work-based independence is at the heart of the scheme and will be encouraged and nurtured throughout the programme.

Trainees will develop work skills to prepare them for employment, including apprenticeships.

Personal development and essential independence skills underpin activities, with up to six key

development areas based on the individual needs of each trainee forming the core framework for each programme.

All trainees can access **employability skills, work experience and an arts framework.**

Mandatory training can include manual handling and health & safety, while **voluntary work related training** may take the form of short courses or stand-alone NOCN Units relevant to the trainee's chosen job role, such as Portable Appliance Testing for production assistants.

The specialist traineeship programme aims to maintain trainees' functional skills by embedding literacy, numeracy and ICT into all aspects of the programme where appropriate. This will be done in a practical fashion to reflect the wider aims of the scheme.

The specialist traineeships are run from ESPA College's facilities in Sunderland and are accredited by ONE Awards.

Employability
Skills

Work Experience

Specialist Traineeship Scheme

Embedded Autism
Specific
Core Curriculum

Functional Skills

Mandatory and
Voluntary Work
Related Training

Tour with a rock band or work in a clothing business

The three specialist traineeships offer a range of exciting options, including the opportunity to tour with the college rock band as a performer or road crew and working in a new clothing business.

Performing arts

There are two distinct roles on the performing arts traineeship – music production assistant and performer – working with the college's touring rock band.

Music production includes training in setting up lighting rigs and sound equipment, maintaining instruments, producing albums and developing artwork, while music performance concentrates on movement, stagecraft, singing and voice coaching. Both roles also include promotional work and merchandising, and fundraising activities.

Specialist support is essential for these trainees as a significant portion of the programme will be delivered on the road with the band. Risk assessment and safeguarding will be at the forefront of planning to ensure the safest possible learning environment.



Sew Right (clothes making and repairs)

The college has launched a new microbusiness offering a clothes making and alterations and repairs service as a traineeship programme.

Trainees at Sew Right work on clothing alterations as well as making useful items including oven gloves and aprons for sale, using specialist sewing machines designed for learners with autism.

On completion of the programme trainees will have acquired the skills required to secure employment in roles such as seamstress or tailor.



Media publication

Creative students could be attracted to enrol on the media publication traineeship, which will furnish them with the skills to pursue a career in the field of digital media and advertising.

They will learn how to develop advertising materials, how digital and social media works and the principles of marketing, and apply their new skills on practical assignments.

On completion of the programme trainees will have acquired the skills required to progress to vocational courses or apprenticeships in graphic design, digital media or marketing.

Mandatory assessment

It is a mandatory requirement that each potential trainee has a thorough, detailed and individualised assessment with ESPA College prior to any offer of a traineeship.

Dedicated team of specialist staff

The specialist traineeship scheme employs a dedicated team of autism specialist management, teaching and support staff from ESPA College to facilitate best practice.

Contact us

To enquire about the Specialist Traineeship Scheme contact **Allison Hardy** or **Mike Smith** at ESPA College's central admissions team: enquiries@espa.org.uk or (0191) 510 2611.