The Case for Work Experience

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http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/physics/about/outreach/workexperience
Overview

• Why offer Work Experience?

• The Current Process

• The Insights Scheme

• Benefits & Limitations

• Q & A
Why offer Work Experience?

In short, work experience can:

• assist with recruitment of UG students,

• enhance reputation of Department/Institution

• Improves links with schools network (widening access)
The current process

Most departments suffer from:

• *Slow response to WE enquiries*

• *Lack of ‘physics’ experience*

• *Perceived as requiring ‘special links’ to gain access to WE*
Aimed at year 12’s:

• Block booking of specific time-window

• Online application process

• ‘Tailored’ selection criteria

• Some integrated group activities

• Showcase event
Overall Benefits

• Transparent application process
• Structured (enriched) program
• Less burden on individual staff members
• Better understanding of physics & research
• Better understanding of institution
This year, applications have outnumbered places by nearly 20:1, suggesting a very high demand for this type of scheme.

Encouragingly, 44% of participants from the scheme who went on to apply to study physics were female.

4 insights alumni are currently UGs in the (2 male 2 female).

Significantly increased number of applications from ‘new’ schools.

Several applications to *other departments* at Imperial from Insights alumni.
Most departments suffer from:

- Only cost effective for students within commuting distance
- Limited bursaries available
- Oversubscribed by those interested in other disciplines
Expansion of the program

• Other departments (Chemistry, EEE, Life Sciences etc).

• Other institutions

• Include younger students