

# SENTINUS

## IT Bursary Programme 2018



# IT Bursary Placements...

## Information Technology (IT)....

IT allows business, industry and universities to develop innovative solutions every day to fulfil the world's business and social needs. IT professionals specialise in using computer and telecommunications technology to store, transmit and translate various types of information including audio, visual, textual and numerical. With the recent explosion in Applications Development, the functionality of mobile phones and computers is improving all the time.

Could you imagine a world without Facebook, Twitter or YouTube? What about doing your online banking or checking the weather on your phone?

## IT Bursary Programme....

The Sentinus IT Bursary Placement Programme is an annual programme which provides students with a great opportunity to work alongside IT professionals in real IT work environments for a number of weeks over the Summer holiday period.

### **Benefits of the programme:**

- Gain first-hand experience of what it's like to work in an IT environment;
- Gain greater awareness of possible career opportunities;
- Gain experience of teamwork, presentations and writing reports;
- Opportunities to use the knowledge gained in school in a real context;
- Insight into current IT projects and development;
- Contribute to the work of your placement provider;
- Meet a range of IT professionals;
- Increase your confidence and enthusiasm for IT;
- Personal & professional development;
- An opportunity to meet students from a variety of schools/colleges and backgrounds across Northern Ireland;
- Something to talk about at University interviews.

## How to Apply....

The first thing to do is to contact Sentinus (contact details overleaf). They will be able to offer you guidance and provide you with an application form.

**Step 1:** Think about the possible benefits to you of a summer placement in a professional environment and decide whether you would like to apply for an IT Bursary Placement.

**Step 2:** Make sure you are eligible to apply by checking you meet the criteria (overleaf) before applying for the programme.

**Step 3:** Check with your family that you will be able to set aside 4 weeks in July and August for a placement without clashing with holidays or other arrangements. You should assume that it will be impossible to fit in a holiday during a project.

**Step 4:** Talk to your teacher about your interest in the scheme and ask if they will provide a teacher reference for you (this is part of the application process).

**Step 5:** Prepare and complete your application form. As well as your academic interests, don't forget to explain why you would like to do an IT bursary placement, and what you hope to gain from the experience. There is a section for your teacher to complete; you should ask them to do this after you have completed your sections. There is also a section for your parent or guardian to complete.

**Step 6:** Ensure you have fully completed and submitted your application form before the deadline date of Friday 30th March 2018. Application forms can be posted or emailed to:

Karin Walker  
Project Manager  
Sentinus  
19a Ballinderry Road  
Lisburn  
BT28 2SA  
Karin.walker@sentinus.co.uk

**Step 7:** Sentinus will contact you after the closing date to confirm if your application has been successful or unsuccessful.

## If You Are Awarded a Placement....

If you are awarded a placement, Sentinus will work with you to find a project provider in a suitable location/area. You will be given a supervisor who will oversee your work during the summer.

Placements run for 4 weeks and take place during the summer vacation. All students will receive a bursary of £80 per week. Travel expenses will not be reimbursed during this placement. The bursary will be paid for four weeks – if students want to carry on their placement for longer, the additional weeks will not be paid.

Before you start your project, there will be an Induction Event, where you will be invited to meet other IT Bursary Placement students and you will receive more detail about the programme and what will be expected of you while on placement.

## Criteria/Eligibility

Students are eligible if they are:

- Studying any Level 3 qualification in IT/computing such as AS Level or BTEC, or other appropriate subjects which will allow you to study computer science at third level;
- Currently in Year 13 and studying in Northern Ireland;
- Have not been previously enrolled in higher education at any point;
- Interested in studying IT/computing focused subjects at University or thinking about a career in IT;
- Have a good set of GCSE results. As a guide, students should have 5 A\* - C grades at GCSE, to include English, Maths and IT/computing.

## Interested....

If you meet the criteria and are still interested in applying for a place on the programme please get in touch with:

Karin Walker,  
Project Manager at Sentinus.  
Tel: 028 9262 7755  
Or  
karin.walker@sentinus.co.uk



Sentinus, supported by the Department of Education, is making a vital contribution to the Northern Ireland economy by helping industry and business address STEM skills shortages. We give young people, aged 5 - 17, real experience of research and development, problem solving, careers in STEM, attending our local universities and much more, sparking excitement at an early age and inspiring them to study science, technology, engineering and maths and pursue careers in the sector.

Through participation in Sentinus programmes, young people of all ages develop important employability and STEM skills, helping them prepare to become contributors to the local economy. They gain a real understanding of the value of the subjects as a foundation on which to build any career.

With a focus on practical experience and problem based learning, working with schools throughout Northern Ireland, Sentinus provides:

- ▶ Research & Development Projects and Placements;
- ▶ STEM Problem Solving Challenges and Workshops;
- ▶ Careers Awareness Programmes;
- ▶ STEM Roadshows & Summer Schools;
- ▶ Computer Coding Activities;
- ▶ STEM Competitions and Celebration Days;
- ▶ Extended STEM Projects

Sentinus works with a wide range of partners and UK professional bodies, delivering national programmes in Northern Ireland. Independent research carried out by some of these partners demonstrates that our practical engagement programmes have a significant impact on how young people view the STEM subjects and careers in the sector.

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