

TAKE ON A GRADUATE AND EARN SOME CASH

scheme to benefit West Sussex Businesses

Businesses in West Sussex can benefit from hundreds of pounds by taking on a graduate thanks to a scheme led by the University of Chichester in conjunction with Chichester College.

GraduateOn brings together businesses looking for short-term recruits and graduates who are hoping to put their newly acquired skills into practice with a local firm.

The scheme is now giving a grant of £750 to all West Sussex businesses who offer a 12-week full-time post to a graduate, paying at least the minimum wage. There is no commitment to employ the graduate after the placement, but longer placements can be negotiated.

People on the scheme are recent graduates with a range of transferable skills in marketing, education, sports science, human resources management, business strategy, IT operations, Tourism and social care.

Students can be a graduate from anywhere in the UK, although the work placements must be in West Sussex. Interested employers will have their vacancy widely advertised for free on careers websites and at university career departments across the south coast.

Chichester-based Web company Access by Design, joined the scheme because it wanted two new members of staff to aid them with the growing amount of working that was coming in. It took on Kate Heron and Pollyana Popov.

Kate who studied International Relations at Lancaster University, said: "The placement has gone fantastically. I've had a steep learning curve at times but feel already that I've learnt so much more than I would have done in your average job. Best of all, I have now been taken on permanently.

Polly, who graduated in IT for Business at the University of Chichester, added: "I feel so fortunate to have found a job as a junior web designer just two weeks after registering on the scheme."

Access by Design founder, Clive Loseby said: "From my point of view GraduateOn was fantastic as Kate and Polly have become highly-valued members of staff."

Dr Andy Dixon, Head of the Research and Employer Engagement Office at the University of Chichester, said: "This really is a fantastic opportunity for employers to test-drive suitable, skilled and motivated graduates before taking them on full-time and get a cash incentive at the same time. GraduateOn will assist your businesses to secure the skills you need to succeed during this challenging time. We believe that by using a GraduateOn graduate, firms can be assured they will get a motivated individual, as well as back up provided by professional support from the GraduateOn team."

The scheme is run by the University of Chichester in partnership with Chichester College, West Sussex County Council, Arun District Council and Chichester District Council.

For more information visit www.graduateon.net