



**NORTHERN**  
Regional College

**Career Ready**


Preparing young people  
for the world of work!

career  
ready



## What is a Career Ready Programme?

The Career Ready programme is designed to inspire students to reach their full potential, mixing a challenging curriculum with real-life experiences. The programme aims to link employers directly with young people, bridging the talent and skills gap between education and the world of work.



The Career Ready programme provides students with real-life, industry skills and knowledge in preparation for the world of work.

## Benefits to Students

- ▶ Students will be assigned a mentor (from industry) who will meet and support them throughout their study revealing the different career paths that they could undertake.
- ▶ Employer-led visits, seminars and masterclasses take place throughout the programme providing in-depth insights into a student's chosen industry.
- ▶ Students will participate in a team building event with other Career Ready students.
- ▶ Students will undertake practice interviews and curriculum vitae development to enhance their career opportunities.
- ▶ Students will complete a six-week minimum paid summer internship providing them with real industry work experience.
- ▶ Students will be invited to an official Career Ready graduation to celebrate their success.
- ▶ Students will work towards an additional qualification - eg. Level 3 qualification in WorkSkills or a Microsoft Office Specialist exam.



## How to Apply?

The Career Ready programme is open to students on the Level 3 Information Technology, Level 3 Business and Level 3 Engineering courses. When students start on these courses they will go through an interview and selection process with an independent advisor.



## Employers

Partnering with Career Ready and Northern Regional College has positive effects on employees and business as well as helping employers mould the workforce of the future.



## Benefits for Employers

- ▷ Involvement is low cost and low risk – employers can engage as much or as little as they want – from a masterclass to offering a six week paid internship.
- ▷ Internship supervisors can gain practical experience in managing and coaching a young person.
- ▷ Offering internships can help employers harness and develop the key skills that help make young people ready for the world of work. Consider it a six week interview for a future employee!
- ▷ Career ready students can add value by undertaking projects where employers do not currently have resources and also provide fresh ideas and perspectives into the business.
- ▷ An effective testing ground for potential recruits to Higher Level Apprenticeships.
- ▷ Opportunity to network and liaise with other businesses.



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As part of the Career Ready programme I completed my work placement at Plotbox. During my placement I worked in testing and customer support. I have enjoyed this opportunity as testing is a very important and crucial process in developing a new software and there are a lot of employment opportunities in this area within the IT sector. I also gained a part-time job at Plotbox.

**Amy Chan,**  
IT Career  
Ready student



The best thing about the Career Ready programme is the work experience I gained at Caterpillar. It's a lot of what companies are looking for. I can now add a company as big as Caterpillar to my CV and it will make me much more employable.

**Jake Loftus**  
Engineering Career  
Ready student

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Caterpillar Northern Ireland take two career ready students every year and support them throughout with mentorship as well as work experience. The benefit is not only that we get access to skilled individuals who have been through the recruitment process but we see genuine value in terms of the work and the output from the students and it assists the students in their learning as they move on through the programme.

**Stephen McCullough**  
CaterpillarNI



As an expanding local company, we are keen to recruit the best local talent. Involvement in the Career Ready programme ensures that we have access to, and opportunities to build relationships with, enthusiastic, talented and career-orientated individuals, prior to employment. As well as accessing individual students and potential employees, the programme provides us with the opportunity to allow staff to act as mentors.

**Paul Vance**  
Radox Laboratories

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**For further information contact:**

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