

Mandatory work experience

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 DENMARK

Timeline

2025 Implementation

ID number 49968

Background

The background of the mandatory internship programme is to give students practical work experience, helping them understand the workplace, develop professional skills, and make informed choices about future education and career paths. It bridges the gap between school and the labour market, allowing students to see how theoretical knowledge is applied in real work situations.

Objectives

The purpose of the mandatory internship is:

- (a) to provide students with first-hand experience of working life;
- (b) to help students develop practical and social skills and explore different career options;
- (c) to gain insight into workplace expectations and responsibilities.
- (d) To support their personal and professional development.

Description

The content of a mandatory internship typically includes observing and participating in daily work tasks, learning about the organisation and its operations, understanding workplace rules and routines, developing practical job-related skills, and reflecting on personal strengths, interests, and future career possibilities. Students may also have assignments or reports to complete based on their experiences.

This is mandatory for all students at the lower secondary level. The school is responsible for helping students find a company for their work experience. The work experience lasts one week.

The initiative is related to the initiative The junior apprenticeship scheme, 'More school learners have the opportunity to take electives in VET' and 'Role models in youth guidance' as they all aim to motivate learners in upper secondary education for VET through 'real-life experiences.

From the 2025/26 academic year, is compulsory for all lower secondary (primary in the Danish context) learners to undertake a five-day work experience placement in Year 7, 8 or 9 (i.e. lower secondary level) providing them with an insight into working life and future educational opportunities. The work experience, which is intended to help learners explore their interests and strengths, takes place during school hours and is prepared and is followed up at school, typically through the subject 'education and jobs'. The school determines the grade level, but learners find the work experience placement themselves (e.g. in a shop, nursery or office) with support from the school.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Children and Education

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Other

Students in year 7,8 and 9 in lower secondary level

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Guide on mandatory work experience \(in Danish only\)](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

The Junior apprenticeship scheme

The *Junior apprenticeship* scheme applies to students at 8th and 9th grade (the last two classes of lower secondary education, primary education as it is called in the Danish context).

 DENMARK

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Pilot

More school learners have the opportunity to take electives in VET

The pilot programme is a continuation of the previous framework experiment with EUD 8/9 (VET 8/9), which originated from the political agreement, *From primary school to skilled worker – vocational education for the future*, in November 2018.

 DENMARK

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Role models in youth guidance

The initiative is a prolongation of an existing system for the use of role models in providing guidance on VET. The use of role models, i.e. using young people from VET as ‘counsellors’ in primary schools, has shown good results in this respect.

 DENMARK

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

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