

## Teach First Summer Projects

The Teach First Summer Projects scheme provides organisations of all sizes with the opportunity to draw upon some of Britain's brightest and most motivated graduates to help develop, research or implement projects and work. This experience will also help them to develop valuable transferable skills which will empower them to effect change in many of the UK's most underprivileged secondary schools.

Over the last four years, well over 450 Summer Projects have been made available to Teach First participants by businesses, educational establishments, non-profit organisations and Government departments involved in the scheme. Among those that have taken part and, in doing so, seen the benefits in terms of graduate recruitment and achieving project goals, are: Accenture, BBC; British Council; British Film Institute; Credit Suisse; Department for Children, Schools and Families; Deloitte; EMI; Freshfields; Google; HSBC; Roundhouse Theatre; Save the Children and The Science Museum.

This year we are fortunate to welcome five participants, from our sister organisation, The Youth to School Foundation, an Estonian organisation similar to Teach First. The Estonian participants will also have just completed their first year of teaching and will be hoping to gain experience of working in a UK-based organisation for their summer project. As these participants are on an Estonian local wage we would ask providers of these summer projects to pay for their room and board.

### Objective

Teach First participants are expected to complete a short piece of work of value to the participating organisation, working either individually or in teams. The project could involve a piece of analysis, research, ideas-generation or the planning of an event and should last up to three weeks during August. As an alternative, participants may shadow a suitable staff member for one week. Whilst the key concern is to ensure that participating organisations achieve their project goals, participants hope that doing a project will increase their familiarity with an organisation, its employees and the broader industry for the benefit of both their pupils and their own long-term careers inside or outside of education.

### How does it work?

**Numbers:** The number of projects you submit and participants you take on is at your discretion. Participants may be placed individually or in teams.

**Timing:** Projects should last up to 2 to 3 weeks during August 2008. Work-shadowing opportunities should last for 1 week.

**Location:** Although most projects tend to be located in the regions where we place teachers (London, the Midlands and the North West), participants may be open to traveling further for a compelling project, but this is not guaranteed.

**Recruitment and selection:** Recruitment and selection processes are at the discretion of the project provider, though we ask that all project providers agree to follow a set timeline for the interview and offer stages. Once a project has been submitted to Teach First, it is advertised to participants on the Teach First extranet, a secure internal website. Participants interested in the project will apply directly to you, after which they can be interviewed outside of teaching hours either in person or by telephone.

**Deadline:** Please submit your projects to Teach First by 4pm on Friday 2nd May. Late submissions may result in a poor response rate, since participants will be keen to apply for Summer Projects right away.

**Sign-up:** To find out more and sign up, please visit [www.teachfirst.org.uk/summerprojects](http://www.teachfirst.org.uk/summerprojects), or contact the London team on 0207 517 2727, the Midlands team on 0121 500 0764 or the North West team on 0161 234 0073, or email: [summerprojects@teachfirst.org.uk](mailto:summerprojects@teachfirst.org.uk).

## Employer Questions

### When can I interview Teach First participants?

Interviews can be arranged at your discretion. However, we do ask you to keep in mind that our graduates are full-time teachers with commitments to their schools. We would be grateful therefore if you would schedule interviews outside of school hours or during half term (26th - 30th May).

### How much support will the participant need?

Teach First participants have developed a reputation for their motivation, commitment and professionalism. However, if you are the manager responsible for the placement, we ask that you have a regular time slot (i.e. once a week for longer placements) available to discuss your expectations of their work, provide clear project guidelines, give them feedback and answer their questions. This will help ensure that all parties get the most value from the project.



### Do I need to pay the participants?

Pay for project work is at your discretion. Whilst Teach First does not set the expectation amongst participants that they will get paid, a number of project providers have made the decision to do this or to pay a small bonus on completion. At a minimum, we request that employers cover participants' travel expenses. Please note that Estonian participants will need the cost of room and board to be provided.

### What happens if the placement is not filled?

Each year, a small number of summer projects are not filled satisfactorily during the first round of applications. As a result, Teach First runs a clearing round giving you the opportunity to re-advertise your project not only to participants of the '07 cohort, but to those in the '06 intake (some of whom are about to leave their schools and are thinking about future careers), as well as Ambassadors (alumni) of the programme. Please be aware that even following the clearing round there is a possibility that your placement may not be filled.

To find out more and sign up?

Please call the London team on 0207 517 2727, the Midlands team on 0121 500 0764 or the North West team on 0161 234 0073, email: [summerprojects@teachfirst.org.uk](mailto:summerprojects@teachfirst.org.uk), or visit our website: [www.teachfirst.org.uk/summerprojects](http://www.teachfirst.org.uk/summerprojects)

# About Teach First

Teach First is an independent charity set up to attract the UK's most sought after graduates to teach for two years in London, Midlands and North West secondary schools in challenging circumstances, before entering high flying careers inside and outside of education. The programme provides leadership training with Tanaka Business School at Imperial College London, and over 80 leading employers. Teach First recruits bright graduates who have demonstrated high levels of teamwork, problem solving, leadership, humility, and communication skills at university and on the job. The charity is currently no.14 in the Times Top 100 list of Graduate Employers.

Teach First Summer Project plays an integral part in supporting the mission of Teach First to 'address educational disadvantage by transforming exceptional graduates into effective, inspirational teachers and leaders in all fields'. By taking part, not only will you get the chance to work with some of Teach First's top graduates, but you will help them gain additional practical experience that can be applied in their schools, ensuring they make a real impact on young lives in some of the UK's most deprived areas. Teach First expects many of its participants to become the business, policy, non-profit and education leaders of the future. Through Summer Projects, you have the opportunity to be part of their unique experience, one which is designed to help them make key decisions about their future, as well as influence those around them, shaping policy, business and their own careers. This brochure outlines one way in which your team can become part of the success story of Teach First.

## What employers say about Summer Projects

**Credit Suisse:** "Our intern showed exceptional commitment and interest, and used his time at Credit Suisse to assimilate information about different investment banking careers. He completed more project work than expected, and really showed some more experienced staff how to network."

**DCSF:** "She has been absolutely brilliant. Her real-time knowledge of issues in school was extremely useful ... and will help us to inform other policies."

**Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer:** "I found our four teachers brilliant, refreshing, stimulating and very useful. They did some interesting work for us that has proved helpful in developing our programmes, and would very much like to take on some people next year."

**HSBC Bank PLC:** "Our Intern was punctual and professional throughout her placement. She completed all the work that was programmed for her placement and supported other workstreams when asked. She managed her workload and proactively managed the expectations of the team she was working for."



## Key Contacts

Please contact the Teach First Staff Team to discuss any aspect of the Summer Projects.

### National

(please contact with general queries relating to summer projects across all regions, or regarding the Estonian participant involvement)  
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## Teach First Funders and Supporters

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## Contact

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