

## BUSINESS LINKED INTERNSHIP SCHEME

BLIS is a co-ordinated, administered and managed “Business Linked Internship Scheme”. A private trial was run in Warkworth in 2013 and 2014. The policy is based on the highly effective “Otorohanga Model” championed by Mayor Dale Williams. Learn local, work local and stay local. BLIS establishes an internship programme in collaboration with local business champions. **This collaboration enables our young people to gain industry unit standards from NZQA approved courses and remain actively engaged with local business.**

BLIS aims to occupy the identified gap for the up to 60% of young people not directly supported through other community programmes or initiatives.

The BLIS trial was launched on the 18th of October 2013 with more than 30 Rodney local business champions attending the “Business Champions Breakfast”. After that event 16 business champions offered to participate in various forms. Internship opportunities were confirmed within the following industries: building and construction, printing, hairdressing and barbering, office administration and office management, floristry, retail and real estate.

BLIS also offered support for our young people with interview preparation and workshops for new university enrolled students about possible academic pathways in the financial, engineering and insurance sectors.

To be successful and sustainable, and not just “another new initiative”, BLIS needs to “be fit for purpose” with employers – matching the everyday reality of working as an employee in local business with useful NCEA credits for the young person.

**BLIS operates under the principle of ‘Fair Exchange’ from John deMartini.**

## What do the BLIS Interns get?

They get work experience in a sector of a vocational pathway that interests them. They have the opportunity to achieve NCEA Level 2 or other recognised industry credits with NO DEBT. They can stay in their local area and keep learning after leaving college. They have the chance to demonstrate a work ethic and strengthen all those work ready skills that employers want. They can gain a written reference or a verbal referee for their CV.


BLIS Interns will be considered students and, for the 3 to 6 months of the internship, will have access to the Universal Student Allowance and Accommodation Supplements. Through the BLIS co-ordinators they will be registered with the appropriate ITO who will have responsibility for in-work qualification oversight.

## What do the BLIS Business Champions get?

They get the time, effort and work from a young person who is interested in what they and their business does. BLIS will only match young people with a business if they are interested in that industry sector and have demonstrated the employee skills and personal attributes that business requires.

### “Attitude is the Key – Education is the Door”

New Zealand First met with the then senior Youth Guarantee advisor from the Ministry of Education and made contact with NZQA accreditors who were keen to support this internship initiative. New Zealand First listened carefully to employers and wants to be proactive by working to co-ordinate local health and safety workshops ie., Site Safe Passports and Workplace First Aid. We will also reference reports and job skills audits for youth employment to ensure that internship opportunities for both business champions and young people are relevant for current local needs and future growth areas.



**“SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE  
TO GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE  
AND EDUCATION WHILE  
SUPPORTING LOCAL SMALL  
AND MEDIUM SIZE BUSINESS.”**

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