

The city planner

For my second week I went to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and worked in the traffic section.

I did work for both the traffic planning section and the traffic control section.

I was very nervous beforehand because I knew this was a serious workplace, and I had no experience in office work.

I got settled in on Monday and met everyone I would be working with and for. I received my own little cubical and had a computer! A lady beside me gave me work and explained it all to me. I was slow at first, uncertain and afraid I would make a mistake but no one minded if I asked a lot of questions.

I was given a half an hour for break and someone would always ask if I would like to go with them to the canteen, at lunch I was given an hour and would usually sit with my mum.

Half way through the week I got very upset, overwhelmed by the real work my employer was giving me. But my mum reassured me that they knew I had never done this kind of work before, and that made it easier to go in and take on the challenge.

I really enjoyed the week in the office, the people in my work place were really kind and I liked them all. Each person came over to introduce themselves and was always so helpful and willing to tell me about what they do and what projects they were doing at the moment. They were literally the nicest people you could work with, on my last day there two of the people I was helping came up to me and wished me well in Spain (I had told them about the exchange I was doing) and said thanks for everything, they then gave me chocolates and a thank you card signed by all the workers in the section!

I discovered how important work experience is, I not only learned a lot about myself but I had fun too!