



## Smart Futures

Get paid to have a  
great experience of  
work

EY Foundation

# What is Smart Futures?

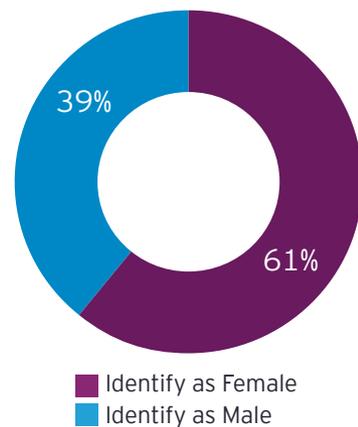
- ▶ Smart Futures provides paid work experience and employability skills training during school holidays and up to 10 months of business mentoring.
- ▶ A mentor will support you throughout the programme to advise you on one of the biggest career choices you will make – the first step in your working life.
- ▶ You will be invited to a series of alumni events throughout your final year at school or college.
- ▶ You will learn about different industries and receive opportunities to practice your networking skills.
- ▶ You will gain a wide variety of transferable skills to give you a head start in your career.
- ▶ Smart Futures is formally recognised and approved by the Institute of Leadership and Management.<sup>1</sup>

## Who we work with

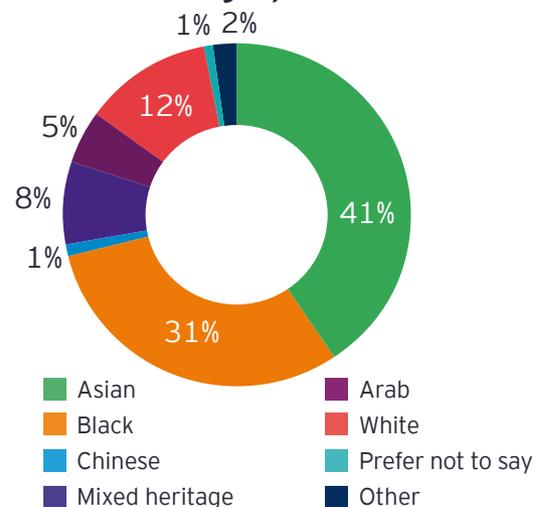
There are different variations of Smart Futures. If viewing this brochure via desktop, click on the programme titles to find out more:

## Our Young People<sup>2</sup>

### Gender split



### Demographics



<sup>1</sup> From 2021 onwards

<sup>2</sup> This data represents the young people we have worked with on our Smart Futures programme between June 2021 and June 2022

<sup>3</sup> These statistics are based on 282 young people who co-pleted a post-programme survey



## Smart Futures key insights<sup>3</sup>

96%

of young people said that their self-confidence was Good or Excellent upon completion of the Smart Futures programme.

86%

of young people said that their interview skills were Good or Excellent upon completion of the Smart Futures programme.

# What does the Smart Futures programme involve?

## 1. Skills Development

The experience kicks off with an induction event which is designed to be a fun, team building activity so you can get to know the people you'll be working with. You'll then spend up to a week taking part in interactive workshops of employability skills training, including a business challenge and other sessions that will enhance your communication, planning and team-work skills. The programme is officially accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM).

## 2. Business (Work) Experience

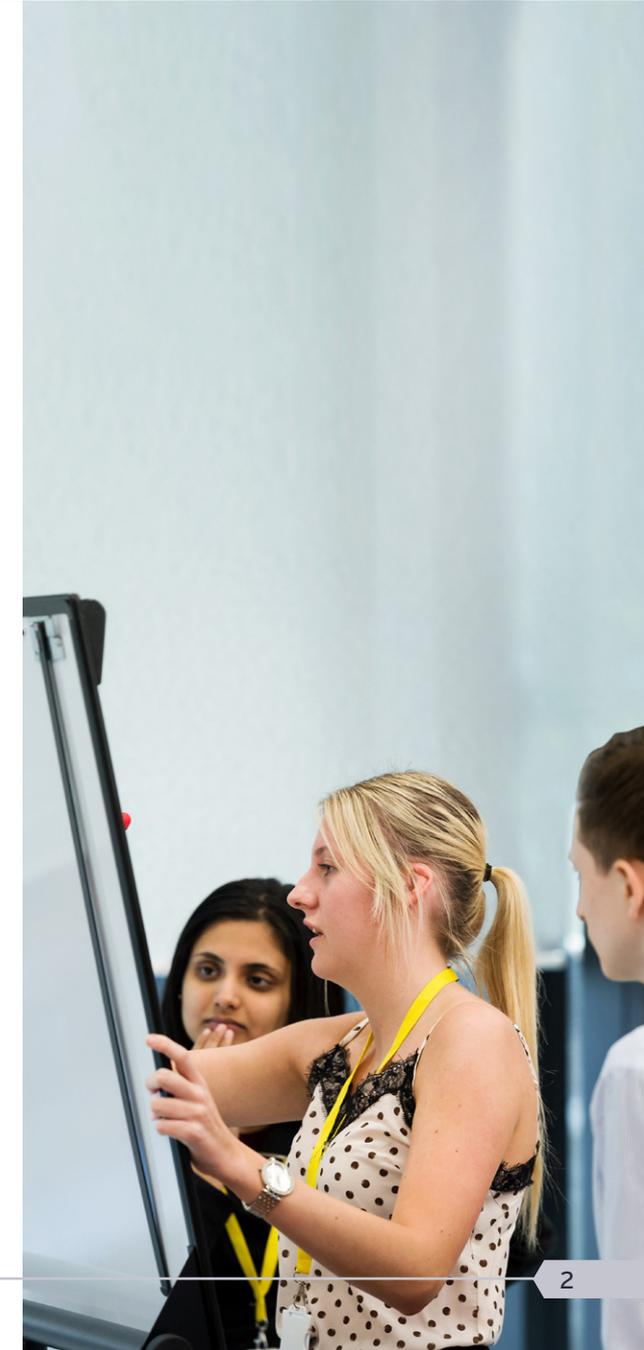
This is when all the business skills you have learnt on the programme are really put to the test. You will spend up to one week (or up to two weeks for Met Futures) working with a team, getting hands-on experience. This part of the programme will round-off the work experience with a graduation where you, along with your fellow participants, will celebrate all your achievements during the programme. You will also be invited to a series of Smart Futures alumni events to further build your skills, networks and experience.

### The programme will give you key skills that are essential in the work place:

- ▶ Building positive relationships
- ▶ Effective networking
- ▶ Problem solving
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Presentation skills
- ▶ Team leading

## 3. Mentoring

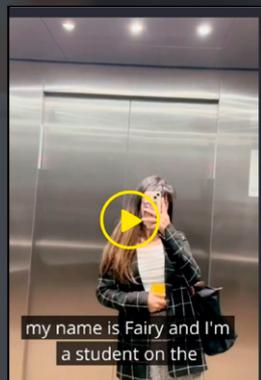
During your work experience, you'll be introduced to your mentor who will support you for ten months with your career, academic and personal development. They will provide you with support and encouragement throughout your final school year as you make decisions about your future.



# Virtual, hybrid or face-to-face!

Our Smart Futures programmes will be a mixture of face-to-face and virtual delivery. Prior to the start of the programme, we will inform you whether your programme will be online, based in a workplace or a combination of both.

Join Fairy for a day in the life of a Smart Futures student in Manchester!



Hear about how we've supported young people on our programmes through our collaboration with Mercers' Charitable Foundation.



Hear from our Secure Futures North cohort about which part of the experience they enjoyed most!

## 89%

of young people said that their presentation skills were Good or Excellent upon completion of the Smart Futures programme\*.

\*Statistic based on 282 young people who completed a post-programme survey

Check out our [YouTube video](#) to hear some of the skills young people have learned on Smart Futures!

# What our Young People think



“

I really enjoyed my time on the programme and feel like it gave me the confidence I was lacking in the workplace. I managed to secure an Apprenticeship with EY. I don't think I could have done it without the EY Foundation's help.

Kerr,  
Smart Futures, 2020



“

Tech Futures helped increase my skill base, widen my knowledge of the industry, and showed me a career in tech is open to someone like me!

My dream is to fulfil a career in marketing, working with products, big corporations and being digitally skilled enough to be able to promote myself to big roles within the field.

Overall, the programme has prepared me for the world of work and made me excited to start my journey.

Nahima,  
Tech Futures, 2022



Hi everyone. My name is Eden and I am one of



Check out Eden's video diary, where she documents her first week on our Secure Futures programme!

“

Honestly, it's been amazing. It's been incredible. We've learned so much about being professional in a workplace in general that I don't think we would have been able to get this information anywhere else.

My network has grown immensely and honestly I don't think there's anything else I can say apart from a great big thank you to everyone at the EY Foundation.

Eden, Secure Futures, 2021

# What next?

Applications start online [here](#).

The application process is designed to provide you with insights into what it takes to successfully apply for a job working in a business. You will also find lots of hints and tips on how to navigate the application process.

If you have any queries about applying, you can email us with your questions [smartfutures@eyfoundation.ey.com](mailto:smartfutures@eyfoundation.ey.com).

## How to apply

1. Complete and submit a short online application form
2. Short listed candidates will be invited to a telephone interview (spaces are allocated on a first come, first serve basis)
3. It's required that successful candidates satisfy the documentation requirements (completing all relevant paperwork and permission forms)



\*Eligibility criteria can differ slightly according to the programme you apply for.

## Eligibility Criteria\*

Please note, you must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply:

- ▶ Eligible for free school meals at any time in the last two years  
or
- ▶ Eligible for College Bursary or Education Maintenance Allowance (where household income is less than £24,421)

### Plus

- ▶ Currently in Year 12 (England) or Fifth Year (Scotland)
- ▶ Attending a state school
- ▶ Studying any combination of A-level/International Baccalaureate/BTEC Level 3s/National 5/Highers
- ▶ Ambitious and motivated to join the world of work
- ▶ Looking for a great paid work experience this Easter or Summer that will help you secure a job after school, or a place at university

## The EY Foundation

### About the EY Foundation

The EY Foundation is a UK registered charity that works directly with young people, employers and social entrepreneurs to create or support pathways to education, employment or enterprise. EY Foundation operates and is incorporated independently of EY and is governed by a separate trustee board.

The EY Foundation is a charitable company registered in England and Wales and Scotland with registered charity number 1157154 and SC045076. It is also a member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.

The EY Foundation, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF

© 2023 The EY Foundation. Published in the UK, All Rights Reserved.

[eyfoundation.com](https://eyfoundation.com)

ED None

UKC-026833.indd (UK) 01/23. Artwork by Creative UK.