

Work Placement Blog - Emily Martini

When I was given my work placement at BSWN, I was quite nervous about working in an office setting as I never done so before. However, emailing back and forth with Kat and Mina they invited me into the office before my placement which set me at ease. We had a chat about any ideas that I had and so I could meet them personally before I started. I think this was a very good idea as it calmed my nerves and I did not feel as intimidated about what I would be doing at my placement.

I liked that I was asked about how I would like to spread my placement across the 36 hours; as being a university student, it can be difficult to make time with lectures and assignments that may have clashed with the schedule if I was not given the option. I liked how it was flexible in terms of if I did not want to come into the office because of Covid reasons, so there was no pressure to come into. However, I wanted too, so I also had the opportunity to do half of my placement in the office.

I found that the placement being at a racial justice organisation, allowed me to be creative and expressive with my ideas as I was able to think about what I wanted to write about in my blog and in what style I would like it to be. Instead of being told something very specific that I may have not been very interested in. Which for my first work placement I think was really interesting, and I was not expecting it, as some of my friends who had started theirs at other places were not given the same freedom.

I liked having Kat manage me, so if I had any questions she would be right next to me to ask and I had the option to email and WhatsApp her when I had my placement online. Everyday, Kat would give me a checklist to be completed. This helped me keep on top of my tasks as sometimes I can be forgetful, so it was very useful. The checklist was online so easy for me to access when I was at home. She would also help me edit my work and give me any prompts for anything else that I could talk about.

I would definitely recommend Black South West Network as a placement option to other students. I really loved it there as I was able to write about my cultural background and I had never thought about working in this type of job sector before. This placement has completely changed my opinion and has given me ideas of similar jobs I would like to go into after university.