

How VLUK Prepare Learners for their Next Steps

- › **Work Experience Opportunities** – The learners are provided with the opportunity to participate in a range of relevant and appropriate work experience opportunities throughout the academic year, with all our campuses having good connections to a range of organisations. The learners have the opportunity to lead and assist with sessions as well as the opportunity to participate and deliver in the various programs and camps. Similarly, through the organisations we work with, the learners also have access to a range of opportunities within different fields within the industry, including being able to participate in different areas of the industry which have been built up through the connections.

- › **XELLO Programme** – Alongside the study programme, the learners undertake the XELLO programme. Through this, the learners have the opportunity to develop a range of work-related aspects including creating a CV as well as looking at their own personal development and work preparation, with this giving the learners the platform to prepare themselves for future employment upon completion of the study programme. The XELLO programme also identifies employability skills that the learner can develop and enables the learners to make direct links between the curriculum and the world of work.

- › **Local Employer Engagement** – At regular periods throughout the academic year, campus staff arrange for local employers to come in and deliver talks around the range of work-related opportunities in the sector and the skills/qualities needed to gain employment. Through this, learners have direct access to current and relevant local employers which provides the learners with an insight into what is expected should they pursue a career within their chosen sector as well as the opportunity to network with employers/professionals currently working within the industry.

- › **Additional Qualifications** – Through the campus's links the learners have the opportunity to participate in additional training courses and qualifications alongside their main study programme. Qualifications such as the Extended Project Qualification or coaching qualifications can be arranged for the learners which helps them to develop a wider skill set and gives the learners a more competitive advantage when seeking work or placements.

- › **Higher Education Experiences & Talks** - From the start of the programme learners have access to information around higher education and progression to further studies. The learners are supported in looking into various courses and programmes so that they make informed choices on the next steps in their education pathway. Learners are also given the opportunity to attend university open days so that they can gain a greater insight into the life of a university student as well as being taken to local UCAS events/fairs on an annual basis. Campus staff also invite universities and institutions to speak with the learners (both face-to-face and online) so the learners can ask questions/see what they need to do in order to achieve progression in their studies.

- › **The Enrichment Programme** - The four hour enrichment programme (per cohort) that is delivered alongside the main programme of study allows for the learners to make clear links between the curriculum content and real-life situations/experiences. Through the learners participating in the enrichment activities, the learners can gain a greater understanding of how curriculum content is applied within job roles and life whilst also having the opportunity to develop and apply their own understanding and knowledge around the concepts that they have studied.

- › **Trips & Experience Days** – The learners are provided with extra-curricular activities and trips that help to enhance what is covered within the study programme. As part of the weekly schedule, learners participate in various activities to provide a realistic experience of what it would be like to be in their chosen industry full time. Similarly, learners are also taken on trips and experience days which helps to facilitate the learners' understanding around the content covered both in the classroom- and practical-based settings.

- › **Information, Advice & Guidance** – The learners are provided with appropriate and relevant information, advice and guidance (IAG) alongside the programme to help guide learners on the career pathways and higher education routes open to them so that they have a sound understanding of the 'next steps' that they can take following the completion of the study programme.