



# WORKPLACE READINESS PROGRAMME

## *PDSi KHDA Educational Permit Services Number 62618*

The choices students make today will impact their personal and professional lives in the future. When they aren't even sure what they want to study, how can they be expected to make the informed decisions needed to embark on a career journey?

Added to this, there is a real lack of opportunity to give them hands-on experience in the professional world. In an increasingly competitive global market, it is our collective responsibility to help students on the path to success.

### Did you know...?

- 80% of students change majors three times on average
- 50% of recent graduates regret their choice of major
- 50% of students don't know what to do with their major
- 75% of graduates don't know what positions fit them

At such an informative time in their lives, this can have far-reaching stressful and costly consequences. We work with schools, parents and students to help change this.

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**PDSi's Workplace Readiness Programme** bridges the gap between students and the world of work, giving them a head start in developing the right skills and embedding the behaviours that are expected of them in the fields of work, study and life in general, as a young adult. Not only will students gain more clarity on exactly what they want to study and how this will support career entry, it gives them tangible achievements to add to their university application, supports non-academic development and provides them with a grounding in vital 'soft' skills needed in today's professional environment. It's not just about preparing them for a future career - it's about empowering them today in building strong relationships, empathy and decision making. The programme lays a solid foundation in personal, social and professional development.

### ■ THROUGH THE WORKPLACE READINESS PROGRAMME STUDENTS WILL:

- Discover their individual strengths, values, motivating skills, and career interests using the YouMap framework. (*Online self-assessment*)
- Create a personalised, detailed YouMap report to keep and refer back to throughout the programme, and beyond, as a basis for longer-term decision making. This will also be used to help PDSi match the student/organisation.



- Understand how and where they can apply what they've gleaned from YouMap in the professional world, as well what will be expected of them during placement - i.e. workplace readiness training; how to 'turn up', what to expect in a professional environment and briefing on workplace assignments. (*Pre-placement workshop*)
- Prepare for and join a professional organisation. (*Work experience placement*)
- Use what they've learned and translate their skills to pursue their chosen career path, continue to build a professional network and apply these skills across other areas of life (including extra-curricular activity and community service). (*Post-placement workshop*)
- Have the opportunity to network and build valuable ongoing relationships/mentorships.

Unstructured work experience can be disappointing for students, the workplace and parents if the process is not managed. We have put a structured framework in place to ensure the programme is valuable to all involved.

Students are expected to fully engage throughout the process and in return, we will carefully match them with professional organisations across the UAE and give them assignments to complete before, during and after their placement.

### **Assignments and activities include:**

- Completing their YouMap self-assessment.
- Undertaking a SWOT analysis during their placement of the team/organisation they are part of – presenting those findings to their workplace sponsor (the person who will manage them during the placement).
- Their own assessment of the placement – their performance, their likes/dislikes and looking at this against the results from YouMap to understand more about what they want to do in the future.
- CV and LinkedIn development (this will be covered in the post-placement workshop).
- Evidence of continued networking.

On completion and submission of all assignments, students will receive Workplace Readiness Certification and will be eligible to enter the national awards programme, which will commence in 2020.

Founded in 2010 [PDSi](#) is proud to have worked with some of the best companies in the world, including multinational and homegrown and in both the governmental and private sector. As a result, students will have access to PDSi's corporate network, comprising businesses across sectors and industries.

The length of the programme is dependent on a number of variables, such as which year group students are participating (i.e. where they are in their studies – year 11 up) and if the placement is secured for the next upcoming break, or scheduled during the longer summer break. However, a typical example engagement – with a 7-14 day placement in the middle – could be undertaken and completed within a six week period. The programme can be incorporated as part of moral education/ leadership curriculum activities or outside curriculum time - we are flexible and can work with you as needed.

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**■ THE COST PER STUDENT IS 7,500 AED AND THIS INCLUDES:**

- Access to our online assessment tool and copy of comprehensive YouMap profile
- Participation in pre- and post-placement workshops
- Being placed in a professional organisation (we endeavour to match students with specific roles, based on their YouMap results, however this is subject to availability/the specific requirements within professional organisations)
- All templates and materials required to complete assignments
- Certification
- NB: Additional one-to-one coaching is not included in this cost, but can be arranged to support ongoing student development both pre, during and post placement.

**Contact PDSi today:**

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