



Getting started with Springpod for schools, colleges and youth support organisations

Springpod is a FREE online platform offering virtual experiences designed to inspire, inform, and empower young people. This guide will show you how Springpod works, what it offers, and how your student can use experiences to explore their interests, build confidence, and make informed decisions about their future.

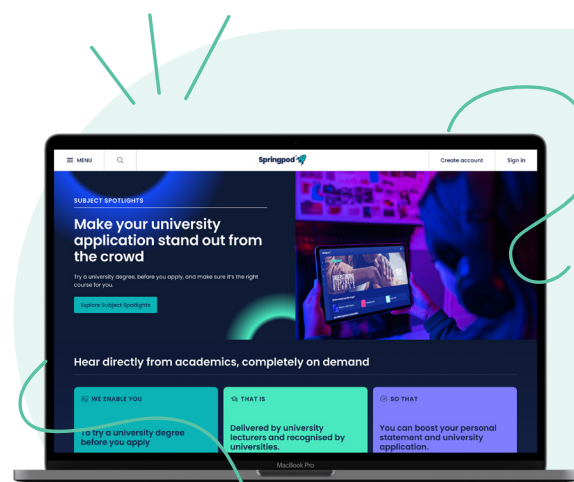


What is Springpod?

Springpod is a free careers platform dedicated to preparing young people for the world of work and next steps. In this guide, we aim to explain how young people can explore career opportunities and subjects through a variety of activities. Virtual experiences play a key role in helping them learn about the world of work and career pathways, and we're excited to show how these opportunities can support their career exploration and decision-making.

Our partnerships with leading employers, universities and UCAS, ensure that these experiences are recognised and valued by students, universities, and industry leaders.

We are committed to offering experiences that complement in-person opportunities. We recognise the importance of providing your student with a range of experiences to support their career decisions. Young people need multiple avenues to explore the world of work, which is why we believe a hybrid approach—blending virtual and in-person experiences—provides many more valuable opportunities to gain insight and make informed choices about their future.



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How to get started

Go to [Springpod.com](https://springpod.com)

Explore the opportunities available for your students including:

[Explore Work Experience](#)

[Explore University Subject Spotlights](#)

Consider which content you would like to engage your students with. Everything is on-demand so you can get started at a time that suits your programme. All programmes include interactive tasks and activities, and all progress is saved and can be monitored by the school or college.

Create your own student account [here](#) –

This will allow you to view the student experience. Create an account as if you are one of your students, selecting your school and entering a DOB that makes you aged 13 +.

Apply to be part of our Teacher/Adviser Community [here](#) –

This will mean we can keep you updated with upcoming experiences and platform developments that you need to be aware of. It will also mean you have a central point of contact at Springpod if you need any help. You can contact jo.bishop@springpod.com at any point for further information or support.

Book a meeting with Jo [here](#) if you would like a walk-through of any experiences or if you have any questions before you get started.

Book a virtual talk [here](#) to introduce Springpod to students here or contact Jo to discuss.

Explore our [resources](#) to introduce Springpod to your students.

Access our introductory presentations below:

Introducing Springpod (VWEX and Spotlights)

Introducing Work Experience (Focus on WEX)

Introducing University Subject Spotlights (Focus on Subject Spotlights)

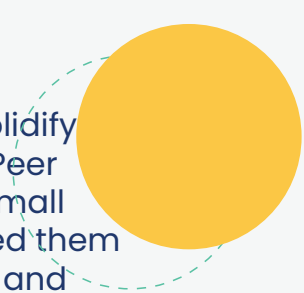
Ideas for Delivery

These flexible experiences have no fixed timetable, allowing students to engage over multiple sessions. If your school has a drop-down day or a dedicated careers/work experience week, consider embedding them into that time. Students can also complete them independently, perfect for homework if in-school time or IT access is limited. Progress can be tracked via Springpod, making it easy to add incentives and celebrate achievements in assemblies.

We can provide sample programmes for you if you would like help planning.

How can you build in additional/follow-on activities? 10 Ideas!

Blending virtual opportunities with in-person follow-up can help solidify learning and make the experience more meaningful for students. Peer reflection circles where they share what they have completed in small groups can be really useful. What did they learn and what surprised them during their virtual experience? Here are some other ideas schools and colleges can use to enhance that hybrid model:



1. Reflection & Skill Application Workshops (In-Person)

- What: Host in-person workshops where students reflect on their virtual experience, discuss challenges, and apply skills in hands-on projects.
- Why: Reinforces what they learned online and helps develop soft skills like collaboration and communication.

2. Employer Meet-and-Greets or Networking Events

- What: Organise informal events where students can meet employers from the industries and sectors they have learned about
- Why: Builds real-world connections and demystifies the professional environment.

3. Site Visits or Shadowing Days

- What: Arrange a day where students visit a company to tour the workplace. You could ask students to research local employers and draft their own visit requests.
- Why: Helps students see how their virtual tasks fit into the bigger picture.

4. Career Panel Discussions or Q&A Sessions

- What: Invite alumni or professionals from your employer network to participate in in-person panels or career talks. Use your careers hub for advice.
- Why: Gives students the chance to ask deeper questions and get different perspectives.

5. Project Showcases or Presentation Days

- What: Students present what they worked on or learned during their virtual placement to peers, teachers, and industry guests.
- Why: Builds confidence, presentation skills, and allows for peer learning.

6. Skills-Building Masterclasses or Bootcamps

- What: Run short, focused in-person sessions that build on virtual learning (e.g. coding, design, communication).
- Why: Strengthens specific competencies and shows schools' commitment to developing career readiness skills.

7. Career Projects

- What: Set a career-focused project where students design their own company, create a dream job or apprenticeship, and plan a recruitment strategy including a job advert and ideas to attract future applicants.
- Why: Encourages students to think critically about the job market from both an employer and employee perspective. By designing a company, crafting job roles, and planning recruitment strategies, students develop entrepreneurial thinking, creativity, and an understanding of what makes a role appealing and accessible. It also strengthens their awareness of workplace expectations, communication skills, and career readiness.

8. Inspiring Younger Students

- What: Have students present their experience to younger peers, highlighting key takeaways and the value of early career thinking. They can also create a quiz, survey, or poster to engage and inspire others.
- Why: This task helps consolidate students' learning by encouraging them to reflect on their experience and communicate it effectively. Teaching others reinforces their own understanding and builds confidence. By engaging younger students through creative tools like quizzes, surveys, and posters, they also develop key skills in communication, leadership, and digital literacy – all while fostering a positive, peer-led careers culture within the school.

9. A Day in the Life Video Project

- What: Students create short videos or vlogs reenacting what a typical day might look like in a job they explored.
- Why: Encourages creativity, research, and solidifies understanding of real-world job expectations.

10. Problem-Solving Challenge

- What: Set a real-world challenge related to an industry they explored e.g. design a marketing campaign, improve a product, or solve a customer service issue.
- Why: Develops teamwork, innovation, and critical thinking.



Would you like to track and monitor engagement?

Springpod can set you up with a reporting dashboard if you want to track progress. You just need to complete this [form](#), and then Springpod will send you a link and a Password to access.

The Data Processing Agreement is contained within Springpod's Terms of Business Agreement (TOBA) here: [Click here](#).

For more information about the processing of personal data please view our policy [here](#).

Troubleshooting Checks

The platform is designed to be user-friendly and should run smoothly, but here are a few tech checks you should do before starting. If access is restricted to the websites below it may block some of the content for the student.

Check our Troubleshooting Tech Guide before you start – [here](#).

FAQ

Safeguarding

Our staff are DBS-checked and will be responsible for the in-programme communication with your students. There is an anonymised help desk, monitored by the Springpod team. Live webinars are one-way only for video and audio. All live webinars are moderated by a member of the Springpod team. You will find all of our Springpod policies and documents [here](#)

Can I create accounts for my students and enrol them in a particular programme?

No, students have to create their own accounts and apply for the programmes they wish to complete. We have made it very quick and easy for students to get started.

Can I use Springpod experiences to suit my timetable?

Yes, we will always have a wide range of experiences available throughout the year and on demand.

Do your experiences meet Gatsby Benchmarks?

Yes, you will always find experiences which enable you to evidence progress towards achieving Gatsby Benchmarks. We are proud of our innovative approach to make virtual experiences meaningful and offer many opportunities for students to interact with employers in a safeguarded environment. Experiential learning is a key component of every programme, whether this is a work experience or a university subject spotlight. You can view our Gatsby Benchmark guide for Schools [here](#) or for Colleges and ITPs [here](#).

Are your experiences mapped to the CDI Career Development Framework?

We ensure all of our experiences are underpinned by the six career development skills in the CDI framework. This means that our content is always engaging, relevant and up to date with clear learning outcomes necessary for a positive career. You can view our mapping document [here](#).

Are your programmes suitable for students who need additional support?

The flexibility of our experiences means that your students can take their time to work their way through the content. Staff can enrol on to the experiences to work alongside the students. For some students, the virtual experience can offer an alternative way to develop skills without the anxiety of attending an in-person experience and meeting new people.

Online placements can also help boost confidence in preparation for an in-person experience.

We do have a specific programme for SEND students 15+ with an EHCP plan. Contact jo.bishop@springpod.com if you would like to find out more.

We hope your student finds their Springpod experience valuable. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to Springpod at jo.bishop@springpod.com. We're here to help!

