
A Career Investigation – Review Two Employers Attending The 2018 UL Careers Fair

Limerick youth service

Limerick youth service (LYS) is a voluntary youth service which is designed to support disadvantaged youth between the ages of 10-21 through different community projects for example Comhairle na nÓg, Garda Youth Diversion, Youth Cafés, Youth & Family Support, Be Well: Youth Mental Health Service, a Youth Information Bureau, international youth work & volunteer led youth clubs across Limerick City & County. This organisation also is a provider of education, training & employability opportunities for young people. LYS's education programs includes;

- Employability Skills
- Early Childhood Care & Skills
- Bike Project
- Community Mapping
- Retail Skills
- Catering Course
- Baking Skills
- iScoil initiative.

Their website is a great resource for exploring the opportunities the organisation offers both in a volunteer role and a user of the service. Their history is very important to the service, established in 1973, under the joint patronage of the Bishops of Limerick and the organisations founder Sr. Joan Bowles the organisation began making a difference in the Limerick city community and have continued to do so ever since.

The organisation offers paid and voluntary vacancies as well as CE Part-time Integration schemes. The paid vacancies on offer now include Cleaner/Project Assistant, Youth Work Assistant and Caretaker. The organisation also has a volunteer program in which, once Garda Vetted, adults help facilitate young people in different ways e. g. youth club, disco, youth cafe, training programmes and adventure trips. The final option is The CE Part-time Integration schemes. The Community Employment Integration Scheme provides diversity in the members of the organisation as well as benefitting less advantaged adults in maintaining a work place life.

Depending on the role in which you are applying for you will require different skills and

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qualifications. For example, as a volunteer an open mind, positive attitude, garda vetting and commitment is all that is required. The Community Employment Scheme requires a more unique set of criteria.

Finally for each of the vacancies there are also different qualifications and criteria that are desired including experience in a similar role involving young people, good management skills, etc. I would have a strong interest in youth work and encouraging youth participation so working with LYS in either a voluntary or paid role would be ideal. I find working with young people very rewarding and as a result in the future I would hope to continue my volunteer role or work in a paid position.

I found the UL Career Fair to be very useful, unlike other ways of sourcing career information, the UL Career Fair was very personal. All the firms in attendance were very friendly and open to helping me discover new information on each of their specialised areas. In comparison to websites the fair allowed me to ask specific questions to people who have much experience in each of their careers. The variety of different career sectors in attendance was perfect for me as I am a Bachelor of Arts student and have many different options.

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