



Australian Government

**Workforce  
Australia**  
Employment

# Observational Work Experience – Information for Businesses

## What is Observational Work Experience?

Observational Work Experience (OWE) allows participants to undertake short-term, unpaid placements to build soft skills, and gain a better understanding of how workplaces operate and the basic expectations and behaviours required.

It's a great way for participants to connect with the workforce and allows you to assess if they would be a good fit for your organisation before offering employment.

## Is my business eligible to host OWE?

Any organisation can host an OWE placement as long as they have a valid ABN. This includes for-profit and not-for-profit businesses.

## Placement eligibility

For a placement to be eligible, it must satisfy several requirements. Placements with eligible Host Organisations must:

- be no more than 4 weeks duration
- be no more than 50 hours per fortnight and not exceed a maximum of 8 hours per day
- only involve observation (allowing for participation in meetings and discussions where relevant), with no tasks to be undertaken by the participant.

## What are the benefits?

- You can see if the participant will be a good fit before placing them into employment.
- The participant can demonstrate their interest and reliability to you in a work-like environment.
- If you offer a participant employment, you may be eligible to receive a [Wage Subsidy](#) of up to \$10,000 to help you with the initial costs of hiring a new employee.

## Want more information?

- Visit [Workforce Australia - Observational Work Experience](#)
- Search for your local provider at [Find Your Employment Services Provider - Workforce Australia](#)
- Contact the National Customer Service Line on 13 17 15.