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](https://www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/businesses/help/financial-support/wage-subsidies) 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](https://www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/businesses/help/train-trial/observational-work-experience)
* Search for your local provider at [Find Your Employment Services Provider - Workforce Australia](https://www.workforceaustralia.gov.au/businesses/help/hire/providers/search)
* Contact the National Customer Service Line on 13 17 15.