

Worcestershire Regulatory Services and The Healthier Choices Food Award Work Experience Opportunities

Worcestershire Regulatory Services formed five years ago, to cover the functions of environmental health, licensing and trading standards. Their project, **Healthier Choices Food Award** is an award that food businesses can apply for, and it promotes businesses that offer healthier food choices to their customers.

The company got involved with the [University of Worcester](#) (through the **Business School**, the **Human Nutrition** department and the **Nutrition and Therapy** postgraduate course). As a result, students became involved in their project and helped to launch it at the [Worcester Foodie Festival](#). Students played a crucial role in raising awareness about the project by approaching Worcester's main businesses and promoting the **Healthier Food Choices Award**. Amy Worboys, who created and maintained the partnership between [Worcestershire Regulatory Services](#) and [The University of Worcester](#) said that the students' involvement *"was really useful because it meant that we had more people on the ground, we could involve more businesses in a shorter amount of time and the students were great "*. Moreover, as a reward for their participation in the food festival, the students were offered a free place on an accredited course called **The Healthier Food and Special Diets Course** as well as attending free training about selling, marketing and promoting products and services

At the moment students are still involved in different areas of the **Healthier Choices Food Award**. This involvement benefits their employability skills enormously by allowing them to work with an employer, efficiently manage their own time and fulfil the requirements of their role without close supervision.

As a business, the [Worcestershire Regulatory Services](#) is keen to work with students because they are *“really enthusiastic, really keen, and more than happy to try different things and take on different roles”*. The students’ passion and commitment add fresh ideas to the project and the company is hoping to involve them in other projects as well. The opportunities will range from mystery shopping to learning how to assess the award for businesses that signed up for the award, or creating videos for WRS website. Amy commented: *“No doubt other project within the WRS remit will offer great opportunities to students and we are looking at capitalising on a new collaboration we have started this year.”*

For more information about the [Healthier Choices Food Award](#) access:

<http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/food/healthier-choices-food-award.aspx>