

New interns welcomed as part of 2023 programme

2 years ago



Sodexo has announced it is welcoming 24 interns across its UK business as part of the 10,000 Black Interns Programme.

The [10,000 Black Interns programme](#) is a paid opportunity that provides valuable experience to an often under-represented group of talent. Over a six-week period, the interns will be given the opportunity to gain valuable insight into the company's workplace by working with teams from HR, technology, and finance, as well as different areas of the business, including its corporate services and schools and universities businesses.

Fifteen of the 24 interns begin the programme in May and June, with others joining the organisation throughout the year. Interns will be encouraged to document their experiences on social media and through the company's internal communication networks throughout the programme, enabling colleagues to follow their progress.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team member Mercianne Makitata said: "So far, my experience at Sodexo has been amazing. I am learning a lot, not just about the company but also about myself. When I first started the internship, I had a lot of doubts about how it would compare to other internships I've done before. In the past, I've had internships where I felt unwelcomed to the company, but that is not the case with Sodexo. Since I started the internship, I have been building the confidence that I've always wanted. What makes me happiest is the encouragement and support I receive from my colleagues. They involve me in most things and my opinion matters to them. I feel important, and I am eager to learn as much as I can during my internship at Sodexo."

The company has long been committed to promoting equitable opportunities and creating an [inclusive working environment](#) for all its colleagues. In 2021, it was the first company in the hospitality and FM sector to voluntarily publish its ethnicity pay gap data for 2020 and has continued to do so annually. As part of its diversity, equity and inclusion strategy, it has made a commitment to increase ethnicity representation in management senior leadership positions to reflect the ethnic make-up of the UK labour market.

HR director Mark Goodyer said: “We understand how important it is to provide access to the vast number of positions and career opportunities within Sodexo to a wider pool of candidates and in turn support social mobility.”

The 10,000 Interns Foundation’s mission is to champion underrepresented talent. With its growing series of programmes, the team connect students and graduates with paid internship opportunities in over 35 UK sectors.

Beginning as 100 Black Interns, the programme was developed in early 2020 to address the racial gap in investment management leadership positions. With support from multiple industries, it quickly grew to become 10,000 Black Interns. In 2022, 10,000 Able Interns was launched to support disabled talent with similar internship opportunities.

With the data and stories from the programmes, The 10,000 Interns Foundation advocates for change that embeds inclusivity in UK work culture. The team speak to those in the highest positions of authority, to create change and opportunity for those most underrepresented.