

Durham Internships & Collaborative Enterprise (DICE) Project



A new report has highlighted the success of the Durham Internships & Collaborative Enterprise (DICE) Project and its transformative effect on businesses in County Durham.

The award-winning DICE project is a collaboration between Durham University and Business Durham to boost business innovation and growth by offering an integrated package of support to start-ups, scale-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Project impact



£5.4m

GVA



£14.8m¹

GVA with persistence
of benefits



For every **£1**
of public sector invested,
£6.93 worth of benefits
have been generated

¹ BIS RDA Evaluation: Practical Guidance on Implementing the IEF 2009, states that when estimating the impacts of public sector investment there is a need to take into consideration persistence of benefits over time and the suggestion is that benefits are likely to persist over 3 years in total, 2 years beyond the project.

Four strands of support

1. SME Internships Programme

What the interns said:



39% of interns have gained employment as a result of participating in the programme.



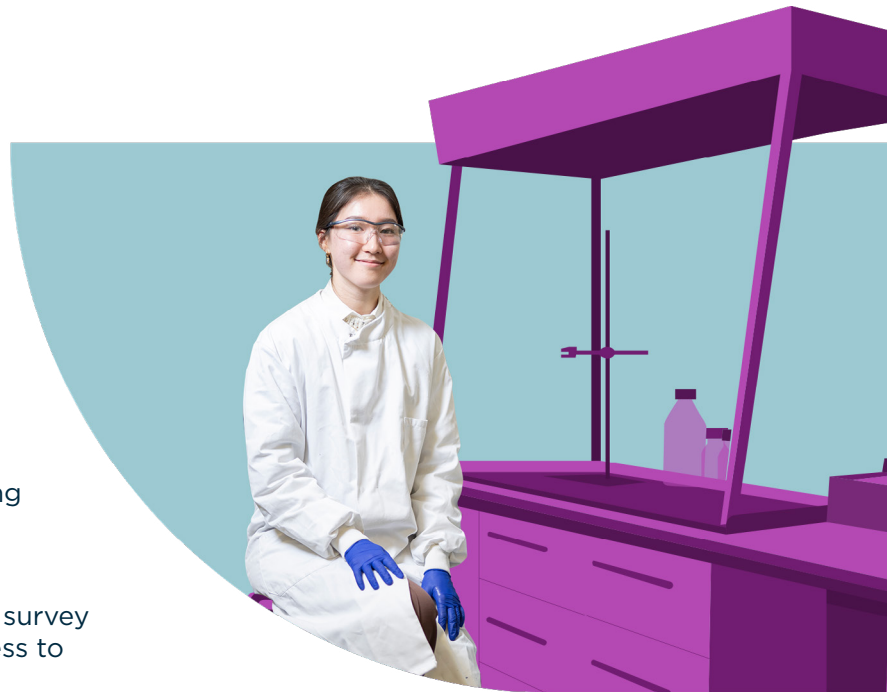
95% of interns responding to the survey felt more employable.



83% of interns responding to the survey felt more confident applying for other work opportunities.



74% of interns responding to the survey stated they had helped the business to develop a new product or service.



What the businesses said:



30% increase in collective turnover.



75% experienced growth.



55% said their intern helped them develop new products and services.



62% decided to take on a new member of staff as a direct result of DICE support.

2. Enterprise Support



165% increase in student enterprise activity.



127% increase in the number of start-ups over the period.



29% of students engaged in enterprise activity said they would stay on in Durham to start a business or look for work.



87% of student respondents accessing enterprise support would recommend.

3. Durham City Incubator

Accelerator programme and one-to-one enterprise support.



44% of DCI beneficiaries stated that the support received had been a deciding factor in locating their business in Durham.



£15.6 million collectively raised of investment by DCI start-ups.



100% of DCI survey respondents would recommend.



4. Orbit University Enterprise Zone

Business incubator and business space providing science and technology businesses with access to the University's knowledge, networks and expertise.



91% said support met business needs.



21% increase in collective turnover for SMEs supported by Orbit.



55% said the support had helped to bring in valuable expertise and specialist knowledge.



100% of Orbit respondents would recommend.



Read the full report
durham.ac.uk/dice