

BSO Work Experience 2026

One week placement for 14–18-year-olds

For young people to explore the arts and develop an understanding of the different artistic and creative career paths available, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has designed a one-week work experience placement. This fantastic opportunity enables students to spend a full working week with different departments in the arts organisation, including Communications, Library, Development, Marketing and Participate.

Please note this is not a performance-based work placement

Work experience week	Applications open	Application deadline date
Monday 18 th – Friday 22 nd May 2026	Monday 9 th February 2026	Wednesday 4 th March 2026 at 10:00am

Individual requirements and how to apply

This is open to:

- Students who are in the school year 10 – 13 at the time of application, with an interest in working in the arts and creative industries. Please note, the BSO is a Symphony Orchestra however we welcome all applicants wishing to gain experience within an arts organisation, whether they are studying music or not. Applicants would need to demonstrate a strong interest in the arts or creative industries.

To apply for this work experience, applicants must complete an application form [here](#)

After the deadline, shortlisted applicants will be invited to a **phone interview on the week commencing Monday 16th March 2026**. Unsuccessful candidates will be given feedback after the interview. The successful candidates will be chosen after all interviews have been completed. An important note for students - the phone interview will need to be conducted while the student is in the vicinity of an adult, as per our safeguarding policy.

Our application process provides students with an opportunity to experience the work involved in making a job application, and the placement itself is designed for students who are motivated to seek opportunities that develop their knowledge and understanding of a professional arts organisation. Applicants will need to complete their application in their own words. If you have any questions about how to complete your application or the placement itself, or you need the form in a different format please get in touch with Abby Toman via email on atoman@bsorchestra.co.uk.

Important information

The successful candidate will be expected to be at the BSO offices in Poole from 10am – 4.30pm every day of their placement. The nature of the activities may require them to arrive earlier or leave later and may involve travelling to projects with a member of BSO staff; however, these will be discussed with students in advance of the placement. The students will be given an hour's lunch break every day, and they can either bring a packed lunch to have in the office's kitchen or go out locally in

Poole. Unfortunately, the Orchestra cannot contribute to the cost of lunch or travel from the students' home to the BSO offices.

Please be aware that this is **not a performance-based work placement**. Most of the student's time will be spent at the BSO offices, carrying out administrative tasks in different BSO departments to gain experience of arts planning and management. There will be opportunities to connect with the musicians and to watch rehearsals and concerts during the placement, but we are not able to offer the opportunity to play with the Orchestra.

More information about the week

This work experience programme is designed to support young people to grow as arts leaders, inspiring them to connect with and take part in the wider arts world. They will be encouraged to attend arts events throughout the week, research artists, support with writing in the different departments. It will enable young people to explore the working world of a professional arts organisation and to gain knowledge and experience of how the Orchestra functions. Participants will have the opportunity to spend time with and support various departments including BSO Participate, Digital, Development (fundraising), Marketing and Communications, and we aim to provide the opportunity to talk with the musicians in the Orchestra. Furthermore, within the placement week, the BSO will be performing its 'Explore the Orchestra' KS2 Symphonic Concerts at the Lighthouse in Poole and there is an opportunity for students to support with the event management of those days.

Contact details

If you have any questions about our work experience, please don't hesitate to contact Abby Toman via email on atoman@bsorchestra.co.uk.