

Film Buddy - Industry Insight & Placements in Film and TV

Film Buddy is a service that provides a range of high-quality off and online services, including **1:1 Mentoring, Industry Masterclasses and access to exclusive placements**, aiming to assist young people in careers in Film and Television.

In 2023, a number of SotA students secured **on-set work experience**, including **9 students** who worked on the set of new **Paramount show 'Sexy Beast'**. The 9 students worked in a variety of roles including Sound Design and Production. Alongside this, **15 students worked with Film Buddy** to record, produce, edit and release a pro-shot recording of **the 2023 SotA Showcase**. You can watch the highlights of it [here](#).

We are delighted to announce our partnership with Film Buddy has been extended to 2024. We held our launch event on Tuesday 6th February and had over 400 students across SotA and HLC attend drop-in's to meet the Film Buddy crew and sign up for the service.



If missed the launch, don't worry – you can still sign up and access all that Film Buddy has to offer.

The School of the Arts have covered the cost so all SotA students can sign up **COMPLETELY FREE** using your University e-mail address - Register [here](#).

Once signed up, you can access a bank of online resources, weekly live workshops, pre-recorded Q&A sessions and masterclasses from Industry insiders who have worked **on Star Wars, James Bond, Harry Potter, The Crown, Game of Thrones** and more.

If you are interested in securing **work experience in the industry**, we would recommend first booking a **1:1 mentoring session** with one of the Film Buddy team. You can do this on the Film Buddy website. This is a 30-minute Zoom call where you can discuss your interests, what work you are looking for and your goals – the Film Buddy team can then direct you to appropriate work experience placements and update you when further opportunities become available.

Explore the Film Buddy website [here](#)

Placements through SotA300

2023 saw more students than ever before take the SotA300 placement module. This is a 30-credit module which is taken in third year, with students applying for placements in Semester 2 of second year. Placements are organised through the School and our partners throughout the region.

In October 2023 we had **57 students** begin their 48 hour placements, working within a range of sectors including **Publishing, Marketing, Live Event Management, Journalism, Radio, Music Production, Social Media, PR, Education and more.**

We also developed a number of brand new placements with organisations in exciting new areas, such as SkyHook Games (Video Game Publishing), One Fell Swoop (Event Promotion and PR) and the Liverpool Echo (Journalism).



If you are a second year student interested in taking a work experience placement in your third year, you can read more about the module on our [Canvas page \(Art Works\)](#). Our new wave of vacancies will be launching via Canvas around April.

Year in Industry

2023 also saw the most SotA students undertaking a Year in Industry placement. **16 students** began their year-long placements in Summer 2023, running through to Summer 2024 in a variety of roles and organisations, including; **Promotion (Hot Vox), PR & Communications (Bentley), Marketing (Gap), Retail Operations (Primark) and Music and AV Technician (Epsom College).**

If you are interested in taking a Year in Industry placement, be sure to take the SotA260 module in second year, as this is a prerequisite for taking a Year in Industry placement in third year.

Keep an eye out for year in industry vacancies on <https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk>
<https://www.brightnetwork.co.uk>
<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/careers/handshake/>

After taking SOTA260 and successfully gaining a placement, you can transition on to the year in industry programme and gain real world experience relevant to your career goals.

Posts by Jade



Jade McDonough · 1st
Primark Placement Student & Studying Communication and...
5mo · 🌐

I have just completed the first few weeks of my placement in the role of Trainee Project Coordinator for the Retail Ops team at Primark's head office in Dublin!

I've had the pleasure of meeting lots of new people including the other Early Careers placement students, and many colleagues across the business.

I am so excited to continue my role over the next year and cannot wait to progress and develop my skills!



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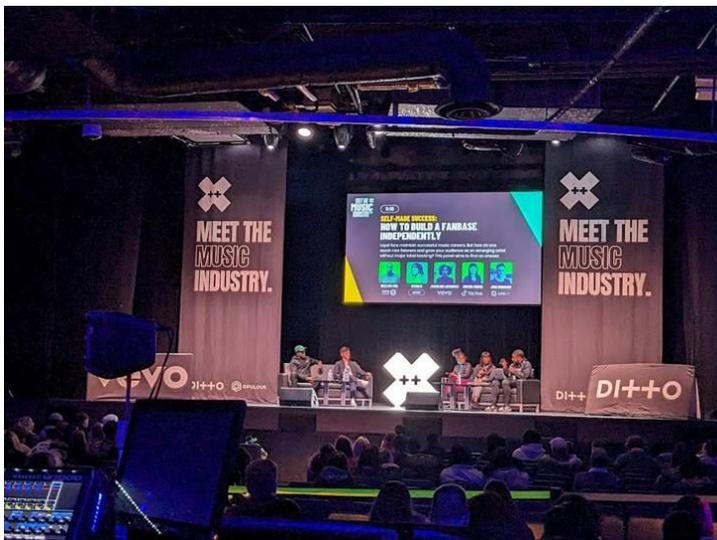
Ditto X Music – Meet the Industry

As part of our ongoing partnership with Ditto Music, the School of the Arts sent x5 Music students to attend the 'Ditto X Meet the Industry' event in London in November 2023.

Students were asked to apply for tickets via a short expression of interest, with the best x5 selected to attend. The successful students were accompanied by Employability and Placements Officer Sam Bird and Music Industries Lecturer Sam Murray, to the London o2 for the all-day event.



The Ditto X Music event is designed to support aspiring artists into the music industry. Featuring a host of panels, workshops and seminars that enable attendees to make new connections with music industry players and artists, explore and chat to leading music industry brands and get to know how the business works behind the scenes.



There was even an opportunity for attendees to submit their own music to be played at the event in front of an audience and receive feedback from Industry experts. Student Rachel Clemett, MA Music, **submitted her music prior to the event and was selected for review by the panel.** Rachel's song was received incredibly well by the panel and audience. After the song, Rachel was approached by a record label scout who was in attendance who is interested in working with her.

Below you can hear from Ruben and Natalie about their experiences at Ditto X;

Ruben Angress Sparr

Ditto X was a great opportunity for me to reflect on my own goals and career aspirations, and I learnt some useful industry tips from the panels. Events like this make me feel that little bit closer to becoming part of what they're talking about and knowing how to conduct myself in a difficult industry. It was a good chance to spend time with other members of the department who I hadn't previously encountered, and are at different stages to myself doing masters courses and such, and it was useful to have colleagues there to discuss the thoughts of the day with and converse about each others' goals and careers.

Natalie Harrison;

I found the event extremely insightful and interesting. Not only was it a fun day out to London with peers whom I had not yet met, it was also full of discovering new jobs and information on the music industry. I really enjoyed listening to the panel of music managers as they introduced me into a career path I had not yet questioned. I also extremely enjoyed a production workshop from the producer Cimm where he took us through his process of creating a new song. The event allowed for networking to be done with the speakers available to talk to after their sessions which I found useful as I could ask specific questions tailored to me. Overall, I though the event was extremely useful and a great day out!

Thank you to Rachel, Natalie, Ruben, Aditi and Tom for coming along on the day and representing the School so well. And congratulations to 3rd year Music student Chris Roughley who completed his SotA300 Placement with Ditto X and was working on the event.

If you are interested in similar opportunities coming up this year, as well as placements with Ditto and other music organisations, please keep an eye on announcements from the **Art Works Canvas** page.

Soundcheck - Technical Production and Live Music

We have been working with **local music venue Future Yard** for a number of years now, offering **placements and training** to a number of our students. In Summer of 2023 we were able to ringfence x5 places on their Soundcheck Programme for x5 Music students.

Soundcheck is a x12 week industry lead programme for young people interested in building a career in **Technical Production** and **Live Music Event Management**. The students were able to build skills and knowledge in a real industry setting throughout the programme, from sound engineering, event management to lighting design and box office, leading to the opportunity to gain hands on experience at live events. A number of the students that completed the programme went on to secure paid live production roles at venues throughout the city.



We are working with Future Yard again this year to provide another x5 places on the next Soundcheck Programme, so we look forward to seeing how the next group of students get on with the programme!

FUSE - Agent Academy, Digital and Tech Programme



As part of our partnership with Agent Academy, who are sector leaders in preparing young people to enter industries in Digital and Tech, in 2023 we were delighted to bring the FUSE programme to School of the Arts.

This was a 5-week intensive programme aimed at final year and master's students, with the intention to give them real-life skills and experience to gain a better understanding of the opportunities that these industries have to offer, and where their degree and skill set will be valued outside of traditional job roles.

We are in negotiation to bring this programme back in 2024, stay tuned for updates on canvas.

Sustainability Changers

Students from across the School came together to **pitch to local businesses as consultants** for the NHS in collaboration with Wirral Unplugged.



As part of the change makers programme, students worked closely with local social enterprise Wirral Unplugged on their new service, **which aims to help families who are on the NHS waiting list for child and adolescent mental health support.**

Our students worked with the NHS to understand the gap in provision, and received pitch coaching from our Entrepreneur in Residence at University of Liverpool.

After this intense programme, Wirral Unplugged worked with our student

consultants on a pitch, **which was delivered at a networking event with local businesses. In total, the students secured £800 of investment in the new service, making a tangible difference to families across the Wirral.**

We hope to run this programme again from October, so join us if you want to become a changemaker!

NHS Cancer Alliance Workshop

For the first time, we worked with the NHS Cancer Alliance to hold a day-long workshop exclusively for SotA students, focussed on raising awareness for the Targeted Lung Health Check Programme.



The workshop gave students the opportunity **to support the creation of a new communications strategy, with the goal to increase participation rates in the Liverpool area.** Students on the day, learned more about the TLHCP, the importance of the programme, the challenges the NHS have faced with uptake and how the programme has been promoted. Students then took part in a workshop in which they shared and discussed their ideas on how the NHS could more effectively target the local area.

To find out more about upcoming work experience opportunities like this one, please check out [Canvas page \(Art Works\)](#) and keep up to date with Announcement e-mails we send from that page.

Bright Ideas – Entrepreneurial Programme

Bright ideas is a specifically tailored programme for people with **creative and entrepreneurial ideas in School of the Arts.** Have an idea for a podcast, magazine, website, or freelance business? Bright ideas is the ideal stepping stone to help you get your ideas down on paper, and create meaningful actions that you can take to bring this idea to life. **This year, Bright Ideas will be held as an end of year workshop,** helpful for those transitioning into side-hustles or self-employment over the summer.

Employability Bursary

The employability bursary is there to assist you with any costs that you might incur when trying to further your employability skills. **Do you want to attend an industry event to learn more and network? Or do you want to take part in a skill builder course to deepen your understanding of a topic? The employability bursary is there to help you.** This year we funded students to attend a fundraising course, which helped them on their placement at a charity organisation who are reliant on fundraising activities. Visit our [Art Works Canvas page](#) to read more about the bursary.