

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

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CAREERS  
NETWORK

# PARENTS AND CARERS

## GUIDE TO CAREERS

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UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

# Parents and carers guide to careers at the University of Birmingham

## Connecting students to their future

Careers Network is the University of Birmingham's award winning careers service. We work with current students and graduates up to two years after graduation. Our five college teams consist of careers consultants and advisers, application support advisers, internship officers and information assistants who provide expert information, advice and guidance tailored to your son or daughter's degree programme. We have specialist advisers for international and postgraduate students and an Entrepreneurship and Innovation team to help students make the most of their enterprising talents. We can offer students careers advice at any point in their time at university (even and especially if they don't know what they want to do!). We provide the chance to explore options through contact with employers at fairs, workshops, sector specific careers and networking events. We also ensure they have the opportunity to develop their skills through practical workshops on subjects such as job seeking, CV and application form writing, interview preparation and using social media. Rest assured that your son or daughter will hear about us – they may even get to work for us as part of our 40 strong Student Engagement Team! Find out more at: [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers)

**60+**

**MEMBERS OF STAFF DEDICATED TO CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY**



## Work experience counts

We know that having a good degree is only part of the package graduate employers are looking for these days. As a result the university has invested £200,000 in providing expert support to find work experience as well as giving students the finance to make it happen. Our internship officers source high quality work experience and internship opportunities with global companies, leading graduate recruiters, and small and medium sized enterprises. These internships are exclusively for University of Birmingham students of all year groups. More than 1000 internships were sourced in 2013/14. We also award bursaries to support students undertaking unpaid or low paid work experience so that they can take steps towards their career goals. If you'd like to know more about our work experience opportunities for University of Birmingham students and graduates you can visit our website at: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/internships](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/internships)



## Recognising and marketing student skills

University life offers numerous opportunities to develop as an individual, whether it is through sport, societies, volunteering or work experience. Recognising and articulating skills effectively is often something students find difficult yet is essential when entering the graduate job market. Our Personal Skills Award is designed to help students develop and identify their employability skills and articulate them effectively to potential

employers. Find out more about our unique Personal Skills Award at: [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/psa](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/psa)



### Advice is priceless

Have you ever wished you'd had the advice of someone who'd been there, done that before? Careers Network has been at the forefront of developing mentoring schemes that give students the benefit of gaining practical advice, encouragement and support from alumni working in their chosen field or individuals who have faced similar challenges and barriers to their career ambitions. The mentoring schemes are open to students from any year of undergraduate study and provide first hand career insights and industry know how. Our Alumni Leadership Mentoring scheme gives final year students the opportunity to receive one-to-one mentoring from high profile Birmingham alumni. Don't take our word for it – hear from the students themselves how mentoring has helped: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/success/mentoring-video.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/success/mentoring-video.aspx)

### Making sense of statistics

All universities are required by the government to publish information about the destinations of their graduates. Every year we take part in a survey which provides a snapshot of what our new graduates are doing six months after they graduate. We use this Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey to inform our work with students so that we can target

courses that might need additional support, make our careers programmes relevant and forge links with employers in sectors that we know our graduates are aiming towards. The survey doesn't give you a complete picture of the graduate labour market but you can use it to gain an understanding of the general progress of our students beyond university. See more at the college pages of our website: [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers). In addition all universities publish a key information set (KIS) for every course they offer which can be accessed via each university website and Unistats (<https://unistats.direct.gov.uk>). These also use data from the DHLE survey but also information from the National Student Survey (NSS) which is completed by more than 22,000 mostly final year students annually. KIS data allows you to compare standardised information on higher education courses at different universities and is designed to help your son or daughter to make more informed choices.



### Decisions, decisions

This guide aims to give you a taste of some of the exciting opportunities and dedicated support your son or daughter will receive from Careers Network should they choose to come to the University of Birmingham. We hope you get a feel for how our approach is both unique and tailored to your son or daughter's career choices. We look forward to welcoming them in the new academic year and wish them the very best of luck on their journey to higher education.

## Useful web resources

Study at Birmingham  
[www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/index.aspx](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/index.aspx)

Skills4Uni  
[www.skills4uni.bham.ac.uk/](http://www.skills4uni.bham.ac.uk/)

Tips4Uni  
[www.tips4uni.bham.ac.uk/](http://www.tips4uni.bham.ac.uk/)

The Complete University Guide  
[www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/)

National Careers Service  
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

Careers Box  
[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk)

All about careers  
[www.allaboutcareers.com](http://www.allaboutcareers.com)

Prospects Graduate website –  
Options with your subject  
[www.prospects.ac.uk/options\\_with\\_your\\_subject.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm)

Graduate Success stories  
[www.graduate-success.org.uk](http://www.graduate-success.org.uk)

What do graduates do?  
[www.hecsu.ac.uk/assets/assets/documents/WDGD\\_Sept\\_2013.pdf](http://www.hecsu.ac.uk/assets/assets/documents/WDGD_Sept_2013.pdf)

Email: [careers@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:careers@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

[www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers)

 [/careersbham](https://www.facebook.com/careersbham)

 [@careersbham](https://twitter.com/careersbham)  
[#askcareersnetwork](https://twitter.com/careersbham)

This leaflet can be made available in other formats. For further details and to request a copy please email: [careers@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:careers@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

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