

## Deciding what to do



Many people graduate without being certain of what they want to do in their careers. Don't despair! It's never too late to plan your future.

### Planning your career

You can [use our career planning guide](#) ([/alumni/careers/graduatecareers/deciding/choose-career.aspx](#)) to explore your skills, values and options to build the plan that's right for you. While you're

thinking, [find out more about what's going on in the business world](#) ([/alumni/careers/graduatecareers/deciding/lmi.aspx](#)), evaluate your employment prospects, and build a more informed understanding of the fields you are interested in. And work experience isn't just for undergraduates! More and more graduates are finding that internships can be a great way into a career; [read case studies from some of our previous graduates](#) ([/alumni/careers/graduatecareers/finding/gi-casestudies.aspx](#)).

### Alternative options

There are plenty of options that don't involve going into permanent paid employment. You don't have to jump into a career right away; [recruitment agencies](#) ([/alumni/careers/graduatecareers/finding/rec-agencies.aspx](#)) can help you pick up office experience without the hassle of applying to graduate recruitment schemes. Or there's freelance work, portfolio careers, establishing your own company - [if you can't find the job you want, create it](#) ([/alumni/careers/graduatecareers/deciding/freelance.aspx](#))! We have published [case studies of entrepreneurial students](#) ([/alumni/careers/graduatecareers/deciding/entrepreneur-case-studies/index.aspx](#)).

Did you love your degree? Are you not ready to leave academia behind? Or perhaps you're going into a field that requires a higher degree. There are lots of reasons to get into [postgraduate study](#) ([/alumni/careers/graduatecareers/deciding/postgrad.aspx](#)), and our guide will help you decide whether it's right for you.

Alternatively why not try a gap year? Read this [Gap year for graduates guide \(PDF - 423KB\)](#) ([/Documents/alumni/graduatecareers/gap-year-for-graduates.pdf](#)) which will help you decide if this is for you.

A web chat took place which enabled students to get expert advice from Careers Network advisers and an expert gap year specialist from the Year Out Group – an association of leading gap year provider organisations offering impartial advice. [Taking a gap year web chat](#) ([http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/transcripts/careers/cfw-gapyear.aspx](#)).