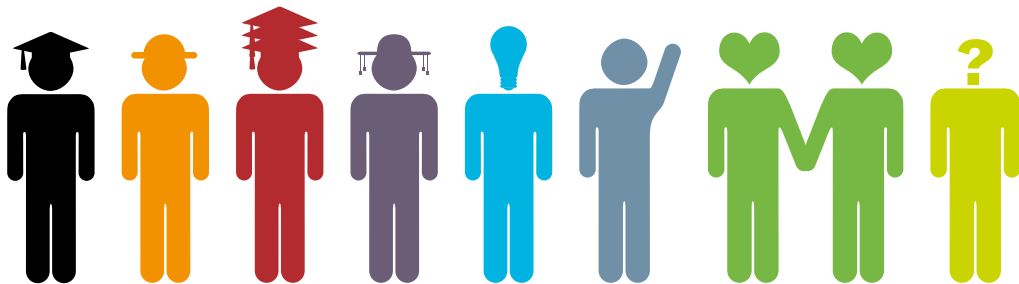


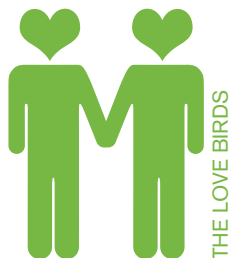
UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# THE GRADUATE GUIDE

#UoBgraduation



# Who will you be?



# Welcome to your alumni\* community

Today you join more than 179,000 former students in 190 countries.

From television and sport stars to researchers and government officials, you are following in the footsteps of Nobel prize-winners, Prime Ministers, Olympic medalists, award-winning writers; people who have changed the world. We even have a couple of *Apprentice* candidates.

Here you will find everything our alumni have told us they wish they'd known about life after graduation. From getting a job, to taking a gap year and long distance relationships, our alumni have been there and are sharing their tips with you to help you begin your adventures after Birmingham.

*\*a.lum.nus/noun*

a graduate or former student of a university.

**a.lum.nus** is a male graduate (pl **a.lum.ni**)

**a.lum.na** is a female graduate (pl **a.lum.nae**)



Traditionally the masculine plural **a.lum.ni** is used for groups of both sexes.



**'Graduation is a day of mixed emotions. I remember being relieved to have passed my exams and become a graduate, coupled with nervous anticipation about the new opportunities.'**

*Dr Matthew Clark (BSc Sports Science, 2002)  
Alumnus of the Year 2013 and Chairman  
of the Board of Directors, Welbodi Partnership*

**'I changed so much in my three years at Birmingham. It gave me the confidence to be who I am today. At the time, it was the best thing that had ever happened to me, and it's helped me have a life that gets more exciting day by day.'**

*Amanda Ross  
(BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1984)  
Managing Director of Cactus TV*

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**THE UNIVERSITY'S FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY  
WAS HELD AT NOON ON JULY 6 1901 WITH 92  
GRADUATES IN THE TOWN HALL.**



'It is important to remember that the world is your oyster.  
Look forward and see what is possible.'

*Chrissie Wellington MBE (BSc Geography, 1998)  
Four time World Ironman Champion*

The **benefits** of studying at Birmingham extend beyond your graduation and wherever your life takes you, you will always be a part of your University.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**APPROXIMATELY 500  
ALUMNI CELEBRATE THEIR  
BIRTHDAY EVERY DAY. MAKE  
SURE WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL  
ADDRESS SO WE CAN SEND  
YOU AN E-CARD.**



Keep in touch with us via **[www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni)** to get exclusive event invitations and the latest University and alumni news.

‘The Birmingham alumni network has helped me in my professional life by enabling me to develop areas such as mentoring, sourcing work experience opportunities and taking part in graduate recruitment. These are the kind of skills that will help me grow in the future and I feel proud to say that I studied at the University of Birmingham.’

*Jasmine Coll (BSc Mathematics, 2011)*

*Marketing Analyst, Barclays*

Join your alumni community online to network with fellow Birmingham graduates via:



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



[@birminghamalum](https://twitter.com/birminghamalum)



[The University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends group](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

**OUR OVERSEAS GRADUATES TAKE PART IN REGULAR ALUMNI GATHERINGS SUCH AS FORMAL DINNERS, PUB NIGHTS, GUEST LECTURES, BOAT TOURS AND EVEN HARVESTING BAMBOO.**

'Being a member of an alumni group provides me with the opportunity to keep in touch with the University I have so many good memories from. It reminds me of my time as a student and is a great way to stay in touch with old friends, reconnect with long-lost ones and make new ones.'

*Nikos Megas (MBA International Business, 2002)  
Alumni Group Leader Kiato, Greece and Indirect  
Procurement Category Manager, AB Vassilopoulos*



'We have regular alumni get-togethers in New York and they are a great way of meeting new people who over time become new friends. A number of new graduates come to our events having recently arrived in the city and they find them helpful and enjoyable. I personally most enjoy meeting the wide variety of fellow alumni who attend, seeing the ambition and energy of recent graduates and hearing the experiences and great stories from the more seasoned alums.'

*David Drinkwater, (BSc Chemical Engineering, 1987)  
Alumni Group Leader New York City, USA and  
Chief Financial Officer, Manikay Partners LLC*



# **DID YOU KNOW?**

## **AS AN ALUMNUS YOU WILL RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO A VARIETY OF EXCLUSIVE EVENTS EVERY YEAR.**

'Attending alumni events, such as the Frankfurt Christmas Market drinks, is a brilliant way to stay in touch with friends and to network with other alumni.'

*Rhea Keehn (BA Social Policy, 2010)  
Governance, Policy and Communications Officer,  
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation*

Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni/events)  
to view your alumni events calendar.



## **DID YOU KNOW?** **THE MUNROW SPORTS CENTRE OFFERS DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIP FOR ALUMNI.**

‘While enjoying a demanding and challenging job, I have always seen it as important to keep fit and maintain a work/life balance. The University offers excellent facilities to alumni at the Sports Centre and athletics track. I would highly recommend continued membership as a way to maintain fitness and meet a new circle of friends.’

*Judy Dyke (LLB Law, 1975)  
Senior Partner of Tyndallwoods Solicitors*

Visit [www.sport.bham.ac.uk](http://www.sport.bham.ac.uk) to join now.



# **DID YOU KNOW?** **YOUR SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP** **DOESN'T HAVE TO STOP NOW** **THAT YOU HAVE GRADUATED.**

**'I still train regularly with the University's Athletics Team and enjoy sharing my experiences with current students. It's great to still be part of a club that provided me with so many great memories as a student.'**

*Dean Miller (BA Sport, Physical Education and Coaching Sciences 2011)  
London 2012 Paralympian*

Visit [www.guildofstudents.com](http://www.guildofstudents.com) to find out more about the University's societies.





## DID YOU KNOW?

### AS A GRADUATE YOU CAN APPLY FOR ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP TO THE LIBRARY.

'The alumni library membership has enabled me to remain informed about current research and have access to up-to-date journals related to my personal and academic interests.'

*Dr John Halsted (MPhil Ancient History and Archaeology, 2002;  
PhD Ancient History and Archaeology, 2012)  
Heritage Consultant*

Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/libraries](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/libraries) to join now.



# You still have full access to Careers Network and their services for a year after graduation.



They can help you with:

- Talking through your options
- Practising for interviews
- Careers advice
- CV and applications advice
- Offering access to an online vacancy database
- Inviting you to 'meet employer' events
- Online advice and resources



You will also receive a monthly graduate careers e-newsletter.

You can stay in touch with Careers Network via:



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



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




[The University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends group](#)

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

‘Mock interviews with the Careers Network helped prepare me for real interviews with employers. They gave me a constructive space to analyse how I could improve my interview preparation and technique and a lot of the questions they asked were similar to the real interview.’

*Laurence Reid (BA History  
and Political Science, 2012)  
Marketing Assistant, Flightglobal*





'Since graduating, I found and successfully applied for a graduate internship at Deutsche Bank through the Careers Network's online job board. I am now using the skills and knowledge I gained there in my next role.'

*Callum Smith  
(BSc International Business, 2012)  
Government Development Scheme,  
The Home Office*

## DID YOU KNOW?

THE UNIVERSITY'S CAREERS CONNECT DATABASE CAN HELP IN YOUR JOB SEARCH. VISIT [WWW.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/JOBSEARCH](http://WWW.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/JOBSEARCH) FOR ACCESS TO GRADUATE JOB VACANCIES AND WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES.

‘I kind of fell into presenting. I worked as a runner for the Weather Network in Hockley, and every now and again they’d let me practise presenting the travel and weather when we weren’t on air and I really enjoyed it. Once I’d decided that was what I wanted to do, I worked hard to get as much experience and meet as many people as I could. There isn’t one set route into television so the most important thing is building up contacts and getting to know the industry.’

*Ben Shephard (BA Drama and Theatre Arts, 1997)*  
*Television presenter*



Many people graduate without being certain of their next steps. Don't despair – it's never too late to figure it out. Focus on the range of careers that suit your interests, skills and values and look at how you can make the most of everything you learned at Birmingham, not just your degree.





# Curriculum vitae

A good CV will show employers what you have to offer them and how you match up to their criteria. It needs to prove that you:

- Have researched the opportunity, job and company
- Understand what the employer wants
- Can clearly identify what you have to offer them

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**EMPLOYERS WILL READ YOUR CV IN ABOUT 20 SECONDS –  
THIS IS HOW LONG YOU HAVE TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION.**

## Application forms are your chance to show employers that you match their criteria.



Damien Deighan (BA History, Sport and Recreation Sciences, 1999)

Senior International Headhunter, Eisaa Health Ltd, shares his top tips for filling out application forms:

- Write in short sentences and paragraphs.
- Use active verbs when describing skills and experience such as organised, delivered, achieved, developed and designed.
- Make sure the information you put in your application matches the job advert and specification asked for.
- Ask someone else to proofread your application form. Any mistakes will lead to your application being rejected.
- Phone the company and make sure they have received your form once you have applied.



# INTERVIEW SUCCESS IS ALL ABOUT MAKING A POSITIVE IMPACT.



The single most important piece of advice for interviews is to research.

This covers more than one area and translates into:

- **Research the company** – know who they are, what they do, why they are successful, what you can add to their business and why this company is the best company for you.
- **Research the role** – know the role inside out, find videos, forums, articles; anything that will help you gain a better understanding of the role and what will be expected of you. This knowledge will set you apart from other candidates and allow you to provide better examples.
- **Research the interview questions** – anticipate the questions you are likely to be asked and practise your answers with a friend, family member or in front of the mirror.

*Matthew Cameron (BA Medieval and Modern History, 2009)*

*Practice Manager, Empiric Solutions*

**Remember to stay calm, positive and always be professional.**

**THINK  
CREATIVELY  
ABOUT  
NETWORKING  
TO BUILD YOUR  
CONTACTS.**

'Business is about networking and relationships so being part of such a huge alumni community gives you the opportunity to communicate with a large group of people spread all over the world. I personally like to attend networking events to meet online connections in real life.'

*Ayaan Mohamud (BA Media, Culture and Society, 2009; MSc Marketing, 2010)  
Marketing Assistant, comScore, Inc*

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**YOU CAN NETWORK WITH MORE THAN  
20,000 ALUMNI ONLINE BY JOINING  
OUR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS.**



[www.facebook.com/birminghamalumni](http://www.facebook.com/birminghamalumni)



[@birminghamalum](https://twitter.com/birminghamalum)



The University of Birmingham Alumni and Friends group



Work experience isn't just for students. More and more people are finding that graduate work experience and internships can pave the way into a career.

'Work experience is a really good way for you to find out what a job is like before you commit to a career. I did work experience with an architecture firm and found it wasn't at all what I was expecting it to be like, however I really enjoyed my internship with a marketing agency and am now employed there full-time. Everyone has preconceptions about certain jobs, but you don't know what they're actually like until you give them a try.'

*Emily Drane (BSc Geography, 2011)  
Account Executive, Core Marketing and Events*





'The experiences I gained on the University's graduate trainee scheme have been so varied; from pulling together annual accounts, to supporting student societies, organising high-profile lectures and going out to schools. These have all given me a brilliant understanding of the University and higher education, and equipped me with the skills to secure a permanent position in the University's central marketing team.'

*Teresa Hunt,  
(BA International Relations, 2012)  
Marketing Officer and former graduate  
trainee, University of Birmingham*

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**THE UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATE TRAINEE SCHEME IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IS OPEN TO GRADUATES WHO GAINED A 2.1 OR HIGHER IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. VISIT [WWW.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/GTS](http://WWW.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/GTS) FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## DID YOU KNOW? MORE THAN 1,000 STAFF MEMBERS AT THE UNIVERSITY ARE ALUMNI.

'After graduation I worked for a number of great companies, but I was delighted to have the opportunity to come back to campus as a member of staff. There is still that unique University of Birmingham atmosphere that instantly makes you feel at home and nothing beats the feeling that in some small way I'm giving back to the University that gave me so much.'

*Bryoney Johnson (BA American  
Studies with English, 2001)  
Internal Communications Officer,  
University of Birmingham*



# MAKING AN IMPRESSION ON YOUR FIRST DAY

'Ask questions, actively listen, offer your services if you can be of assistance and enjoy your experience. You will make mistakes, but be proactive in showing that you can learn from that experience.'

*Okiemute Sankey (MEng Chemical Engineering, 2008)  
Graduate Engineer, BOC*



'It's a naïve assumption made by most of us after graduating that we can now take on the world and that we know everything. You don't. You walk into a room full of people brimming with countless times more experience than you have. The trick is to never stop asking questions and continue to learn. Their experiences will help you pave your way.'

*Richard Cassell (BSc Computer Science, 2007)  
Software Product Developer,  
International Risk Partnership*

'Don't assume you know everything. Always ask questions, work hard and be humble.'

*Rebecca Emms  
(BA Ancient and  
Medieval History, 2010)  
Graduate Archaeologist,  
AECOM*



'You have a lot to learn but also a lot to offer – make the most of having a 'fresh pair of eyes', enthusiasm and latent potential. Be patient with yourself and others, listen actively and intently, seek appropriate opportunities and capitalise on them when they arise.'

*Jade Bressington  
(BA Geography, 2003)  
Deputy Head of Alumni  
Relations, University  
of Birmingham*





When entering the professional world there are many ways to ensure continued development such as:

- Finding a mentor
- Attending conferences and seminars in your chosen sector
- Using opportunities to be on project teams
- Volunteering to work in focus groups

It is a good idea to record all of these activities in a Personal Development Portfolio as a record of your personal growth, successes, achievements and objectives – all of which will be useful for future application forms and interviews.

**'Learn something from everyone you work with. The good you can apply when the opportunity comes around and the bad you can avoid.'**

*Julia Herdman (BCom Business Studies, 1985)  
Managing Director,  
Precedent Surveyors Ltd*

## NOT EVERYONE GOES INTO DEGREE-RELATED CAREERS AFTER GRADUATION.



'Don't be afraid to make false starts. Did I make a false start studying Law? Perhaps, but it's important to try lots of things and find out what you're good at and passionate about. Sometimes you need to take a leap of faith, but always have a back-up plan.'

*Tasmina Perry (LLB Law, 1990)*

*Journalist and Sunday Times bestselling author*

'I had thought of training to become a priest for many years, even before starting my medical training at Birmingham. I thoroughly enjoyed the degree in Medicine, but deep down the sense of vocation remained. I was blessed to find at Birmingham a vibrant Catholic chaplaincy and supportive mentors at the Medical School, and both helped me to make the right decision. Although not practising medicine, Birmingham prepared me well.'

*Dr Marco-Daniel Egawhary (MBChB Medicine, 2012)*

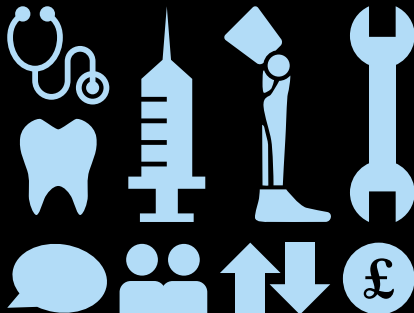
*Trainee Roman Catholic Priest*



## DID YOU KNOW?

THE TOP ROLES FOR OUR 2012 GRADUATES WERE:

- DOCTOR
- NURSE
- DENTIST
- PHYSIOTHERAPIST
- RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
- ENGINEER
- SOCIAL WORKER
- ACCOUNTANT
- ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
- SALES EXECUTIVE



### What will you be?

We want to know where your adventure takes you. Six months after you graduate a Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education questionnaire will be sent to you. To keep us informed on your adventures after Birmingham, update your contact details now via [alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

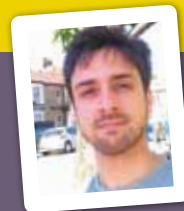
'Continuing my studies at Birmingham provided me with the opportunity to do something I enjoy in more detail. The University and my department have been absolutely brilliant. Further study has allowed me to develop new skills and has also broadened my horizons, opening my eyes to ideas and opportunities that I would never have considered previously.'

*James Green (BA German and Italian Studies, 2005; MPhil German Studies, 2007)  
Proposal Writer and PhD student,  
University of Birmingham*



'My PhD has allowed me to take ownership and responsibility of my own project, make my own decisions and apply all of the knowledge that I accumulated during my undergraduate degree on a daily basis. A PhD is highly valued and respected across a varied spectrum of employers, including non-academic fields. If you still enjoy uni life and want to engross yourself further in a subject you enjoy, definitely consider a PhD at Birmingham.'

*Suleman Khan  
(BSc Chemistry, 2010)  
Doctoral Researcher*



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**28% OF LAST YEAR'S GRADUATES  
WENT ON TO FURTHER STUDY.**



'You must be confident enough about your concept and how it addresses the gap in the market to believe it will succeed.'

*George Davies (Dentistry, 1962; DUniv, 2009)  
Founder of Next, George at ASDA and Per Una*

Stand out in business with help from bseen, the University's mentoring programme for start-up businesses in Birmingham open to all graduates up to five years out. If you have a business idea, email us now via [ei@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:ei@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

bseen



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
MANY GRADUATES  
ARE EMBRACING THE  
ENTREPRENEURIAL  
SPIRIT AND BECOMING  
THEIR OWN BOSS. DO  
YOU HAVE A BUSINESS  
IDEA? THE UNIVERSITY  
CAN HELP.

'I would encourage any young people with business ideas to just do it – what have you got to lose? There are lots of people willing to help you, including the University, and you learn so much along the way.'

*Tim Stillkwell (BSc International Business, 2011)  
2013 The Apprentice candidate and Founder  
of the Burrito Kitchen*

'My advice to other entrepreneurs is do your market research and know what your unique selling point is before you start out. When you have limited resources and budget you have to be very focused.'

*Sam Decombel (BSc Biological  
Sciences (Genetics), 2002;  
PhD Biosciences, 2006)  
Director, PlayDNA Ltd*



'You have got to believe in what you're doing and think positively. Starting a business when you're just out of university like I did is the perfect time to give something a go. I would definitely encourage you to consider entrepreneurship as a valid career choice – just think of it as any other full-time job that will hopefully provide you with a sense of fulfilment.'

*Greg White (BEng Computer Interactive Systems with Business Management, 2007)  
Director, Purple Frog*



## DID YOU KNOW?

THE UNIVERSITY'S UNLTD PROGRAMME CAN HELP YOU TURN YOUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE BUSINESS IDEA INTO REALITY TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. VISIT [WWW.INTRANET.BHAM.AC.UK/EI/SOCENT](http://WWW.INTRANET.BHAM.AC.UK/EI/SOCENT) TO FIND OUT MORE.





'If you want to be an entrepreneur, the best way to prepare is to work for someone else in the same sector and spend their money first. Any managerial experience will make you much more investable.'

*Nick Jenkins (BA International Relations, 2007)  
Founder, Moonpig.com*

## DID YOU KNOW?

ALL OF THESE BUSINESSES  
WERE STARTED BY YOUR FELLOW  
BIRMINGHAM GRADUATES:

- **Beachbreak Live** – Ian Forshew (BCom Commerce, 2004) and Celia Norowzian (BA Media, Culture and Society, 2005)
- **Moshi Monsters** – Michael Acton Smith (BSc Geography, 1996)
- **The Selly Sausage** – Tony McKinlay (LLB Law, 1990)
- **Toast** – Jessica and James Seaton (BA Ancient History and Archaeology, 1977)

For more information about how the University can help you start up your own business and develop your entrepreneurial spirit, follow [@b\\_seen](#), join [www.facebook.com/bseenprogramme](http://www.facebook.com/bseenprogramme) or email [ei@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:ei@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

'My main advice for people looking to do a gap year volunteering with a development non-governmental organisation (NGO) is to contact the local NGO directly. Try to align your skill base and interests with the organisation. This way you are much more likely to be useful and have a positive and constructive time.'

*Gareth Wall (MSc International Development, 2007)  
Research Officer, Commonwealth  
Local Government Forum*



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**NOT ALL GRADUATES GO STRAIGHT INTO FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT. THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE, INCLUDING: FURTHER STUDY, SETTING UP YOUR OWN BUSINESS, FREELANCING, VOLUNTEERING, TEMPING OR TRAVELLING. THE CHOICE IS YOURS.**

'After graduating I wanted a challenge that would teach me new skills and enable me to have an adventure and working at an American summer camp gave me that chance. Camp taught me skills in teaching, management, teamwork, problem solving and a whole host of others that have been put to good use in my career since, but it was also fantastic fun and I made lifelong friends.'

*Ruth Sheaves (BSc Geography, 2010)*  
*Former Camp Counsellor, Camp Alleghany, USA*



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**4% OF GRADUATES TAKE TIME**  
**OUT IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS**  
**AFTER GRADUATION TO TRAVEL.**



**YOUR ADVENTURE  
BEGINS TODAY. WHERE  
WILL YOUR LIFE AFTER  
UNIVERSITY TAKE YOU?**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**MORE THAN 50,000  
BIRMINGHAM GRADUATES  
LIVE OVERSEAS.**

'Staying in Birmingham after university gives you the opportunity to experience a very different side of the city. As a student you don't really need to leave Selly Oak, but there's so much more on offer with art, music, culture, shopping, restaurants and sports all on the doorstep. You probably haven't even scratched the surface yet.'

*Louisa Grocott (BA English with Creative Writing, 2010)  
Account Executive, Core Marketing and Events*

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**THERE ARE MORE THAN 25,000**  
**BIRMINGHAM GRADUATES**  
**LIVING IN THE CITY.**



**‘Moving back home can be tricky after three years away, but be patient. Your parents love you, they’re just keen to have you home and look after you again. Cooking for them is one way to get in their good books – it proves you’ve learnt how to feed yourself at uni and gives them a nice treat. If you can’t cook, supermarket meal deals are the way forward!’**

*Grace Surman (BSc Business Management with Communications, 2009)  
Marketing and Alumni Relations  
Assistant, University of Birmingham*

‘If you return to your home country after studying at Birmingham, you can join and stay connected with the other Birmingham alumni in the local community. You will meet many alumni from young to senior generations via a variety of activities which is a great opportunity for you to extend your network and enrich your social life after graduation. I have met many new friends and enjoy recalling the happiness of Birmingham with them.’

*Jasper Chung (MSc Accounting and Finance, 2006)*

*Committee member of the Hong Kong Alumni Association and Business Analysis Manager*





## DID YOU KNOW?

THE ALUMNI EVENTS TEAM AND LOCAL ALUMNI GROUPS OFTEN RUN 'WELCOME TO OUR CITY' EVENTS FOR GRADUATES MOVING TO NEW CITIES. VISIT [WWW.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/ALUMNI/EVENTS](http://WWW.BIRMINGHAM.AC.UK/ALUMNI/EVENTS) TO FIND OUT MORE.

‘The best way to meet people in a new city is to have a hobby and join something. Since moving to London I have started salsa dancing and joined the choir at work, both of which I really enjoy and have met some really nice people as a result. There is so much going on in cities that there are bound to be some like-minded people waiting to meet you.’

*Lindsey Dew (BSc Mathematics, 2009)  
Software Developer, The Guardian*





# Lifelong friendships

'The long-lasting effect of my time at Birmingham is my friendship with two folks at Manor House who also came from Hong Kong. We still see each other quite often nowadays, 44 years after my graduation.'

*Kwok Hing Woo (LLB Law, 1968)  
Former Commissioner on Interception  
of Communications and Surveillance*



'The friends I made in week one of university are still dear friends today. We meet regularly and revel in our different lives and shared memories.'

*Trish Roscoe (BA English, 1973)  
Retired Social Work Manager  
Trish (centre) and her friends celebrating  
the 40th anniversary reunion, summer 2013*



Many students fall in love at Birmingham and continue their relationships long after last orders at Joe's. Clare and Robert met at Birmingham and moved back to their separate home towns following graduation. Their long-distance relationship survived and they are now engaged.

'It's important to each have a circle of friends and to make time for them too so as to get support and not go insane when you're missing each other.'

*Clare Fowles (BDS Dentistry, 2010) Dentist*

'It is a balance of making time for each other while allowing space for both of you to develop a profession. It is hard at the start, but agreeing that you will see each other at least once a month helps and now we are stronger than ever.'

*Robert Kerley (MSci Geology, 2010) Teacher*





## DID YOU KNOW?

THERE ARE 2,750  
GRADUATES MARRIED TO A  
FELLOW BIRMINGHAM ALUM.

'After we graduated, Simon and I lived apart for a year and worked in different cities. It was a tough year but we saw each other every weekend. Eventually, we decided to settle in Birmingham and live together in a shared house. It was good to move in with other people first, as it took the pressure off living together. It also gave us time to get used to each other before committing to a contract on our own. Six years after meeting at University, we are now married and have just bought our first house together.'

*Laura Fairbanks  
(BA English and Drama, 2008)  
Deputy Head of Regular Giving,  
University of Birmingham*

# IT'S SIMPLE: MONEY MATTERS.

As you say  
goodbye to your  
student discount,  
our financial gurus  
are sharing their  
tips to make your  
graduate wage  
go further.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**YOU ONLY BEGIN TO PAY  
BACK YOUR STUDENT LOAN  
WHEN YOU START TO EARN  
ABOVE £16,365.\***

\* Details correct at time of going to press

# Everyone has different costs and ways of managing their money.

The Student Funding Office share some of theirs:

- Use a budget planner
- Only take out as much cash as you need
- Use online banking regularly to manage your account
- Make your own packed lunches, cut down on takeaways and give economy brands a go
- Make the most of online vouchers and money-off deals
- Set up direct debits to avoid late utility bill payments
- Shop around for the best deals on services
- Seek help if you are in financial difficulty

Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/budgeting](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/budgeting)  
for more help with your finances.



'Just because your student days are over it doesn't mean the end to saving. One piece of advice someone gave me was to set a budget for how much you have to spend in a month. Take out the cash, leave your cards at home and this will help focus the mind on actually how much you have and what you're spending on. Also saving all your receipts for everything, however small, and then reviewing it can help you manage your money. Take a look at [www.morebeans.com](http://www.morebeans.com) for help with all aspects of the transition from being a student to graduating.'

*James Eder (BCom Commerce, 2005)*  
*Founder, The Beans Group*  
[www.studentbeans.com](http://www.studentbeans.com)  
[www.morebeans.com](http://www.morebeans.com)





**'Remember, as a first time buyer with no chain, you have extra room to bargain so always try and push that little bit harder.'**

*Scott Collen (BA Geography, 2010)  
Project Manager, EP Morris and first  
time home owner*



**Play Cash Clever**

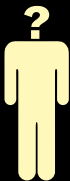
Test your financial knowledge  
with our new interactive game at  
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# NOW IT'S YOUR TURN; THE WORLD REALLY IS YOUR OYSTER.

'Don't be afraid of failure  
because you learn so much  
every time you fail.'

*James Villarreal (Economics, 2005)  
Co-Founder, Glide*



'The future doesn't necessarily hold what  
you think it will – it can be something very  
different, and so, so much more.'

*Brigid Jones (MSc Physics, 2009)  
Cabinet Member for Children and Family Services,  
Birmingham City Council*





‘The bonds and benefits of university life extend throughout one’s career. That’s why so many alumni want to loop back and support the University by giving their time, wisdom or making a gift to fund development projects for the next generation.’

*Cilla Snowball CBE (BA French, 1981)  
Alumni Leadership Mentor and Group  
Chairman and Group Chief Executive  
Officer, AMV BBDO*



Visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/alumni)  
to find out how you can stay involved.



**'Don't expect it all to come too quickly,  
but if you really want it, you can have it.'**

*Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe (BA Latin, 1969; DUniv, 2012)  
Former MP, author and TV presenter*

**'Take the opportunities  
that life presents. You  
should plan and you  
should be ambitious,  
but make sure you're  
prepared to adapt and  
seize the moment'**

*Jacqueline Minor  
(LLB Law, 1977)  
Head of Representation,  
European Commission*



# Competition

Now it's your turn to share your advice with this year's freshers and be in with the chance of winning a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Simply tell us in no more than 50 words what you wish you knew when you were in your first year. You could be in with a chance of winning a £150 Red Letter Days gift card to contribute to an experience of your choice, such as JCB racing, a sailing day or even a microlight experience.

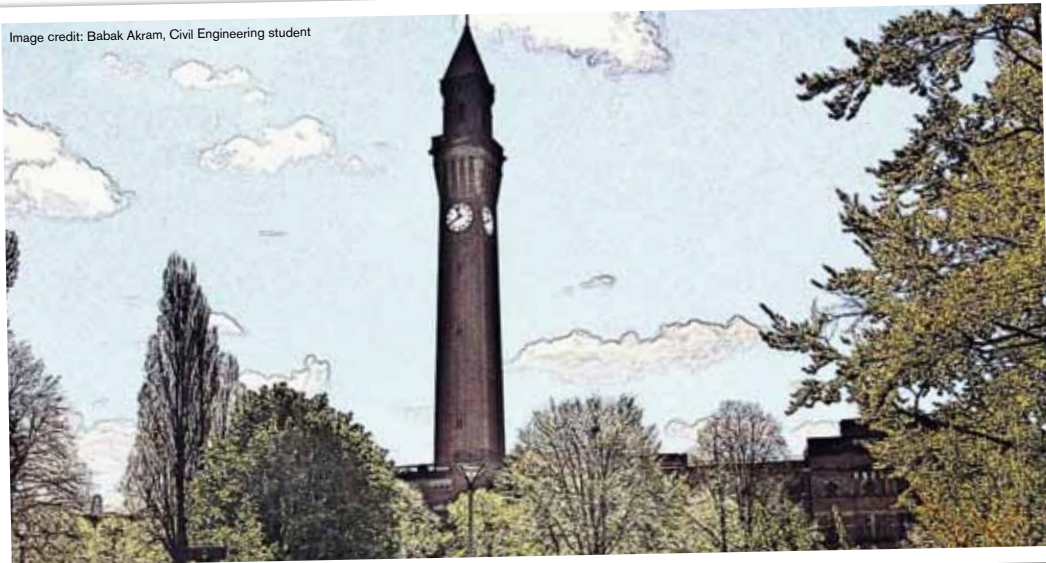
Email your entries to [alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:alumnicommunications@contacts.bham.ac.uk) with your name, email address and contact number to be in with a chance of winning this great prize.

Check online at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/graduateguide](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/graduateguide) for the competition closing date.

\* Terms and conditions apply.



Image credit: Babak Akram, Civil Engineering student



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