Find help to determine your career direction

- Take a look at the labour market information section of our graduate pages to see what previous years’ graduates on your course were doing six months after graduation. This can help you think about what you might do with your own degree.
- [Prospects](#) has a guide to career options with your degree subject.

Find opportunities

- Our ‘Careers Connect’ vacancy database has hundreds of opportunities and is updated regularly. You will need to register as a graduate by filling in an [online form](#).
- Keep up to date with other graduate opportunities by looking at specialist graduate websites. See our website for suggestions, register with them, follow their Twitter feeds, like their Facebook pages or join their LinkedIn group.
- Use recruitment agencies for both permanent, contract and temporary employment.
Explore your options

- Use our ‘Choosing a career’ guide to explore your skills, values and options to help you formulate a career plan
- [Prospects](#) has a planner that can be a useful tool to generate job ideas

Believe in yourself and what you have to offer

Employers from small and medium enterprises to multinational blue-chips target University of Birmingham students because they recognise the value of a Birmingham degree as well the skills and qualities you have developed alongside your studies.

Keep this in mind and GET inspired.

What a former Birmingham student says:

Research the company and industry to have an idea of issues affecting them and how you may be able to contribute. You can reuse much of this – it becomes a skill to actively listen to and sift the news.
One of the most difficult and frustrating parts of job-hunting is learning to deal with rejection. Although it is hard to stay motivated and positive when your applications are unsuccessful, it is important to do so. Coming across as enthusiastic, motivated and confident will help you get a step closer to getting your first graduate job.

“...

What a former Birmingham student says:

If you find yourself without a job after just graduating as I did last year, don’t just sit back and wait for replies on job applications – go out and do something! If you keep active then not only will you keep yourself motivated, but it gives you something to talk about in your applications and interviews.”
- **Take your time.** Searching for a graduate job is a full-time activity. Set an action plan or realistic written goals.

- **Research and prepare thoroughly** for every application.

- **Take time to reflect.** Follow up any unsuccessful applications and interviews by asking for feedback. This can help you identify strengths and weaknesses.

- **Focus on your strengths but learn from your mistakes.**

- **Remind yourself that job-hunting is a numbers game.** Keep applying for positions of interest and don’t get disheartened.

- **Review your job-hunting.** If you aren’t getting anywhere then it might be time to change your approach.

- **Build your CV and confidence** by doing graduate internships or voluntary work.

- **Schedule time for fun!** Maintain your other interests and get regular exercise.

- **Always remember Careers Network are here to help, so get in contact.**
Most graduates are aware that networking is important for building a future career, but there is some confusion and fear over what it is and how to do it. Here is our simple guide.

What is networking?

- Networking is establishing and maintaining connections with a wide range of people who may be able to assist you in building your career
- This can be face to face, by social networking or by both

Why should I do it?

- To get a variety of advice and support from different sources
- To find out about an area of business you did not know much about previously
- 70% of jobs are not advertised, so networking is a good way of tapping into the hidden job market
- It demonstrates you are a proactive person with good interpersonal skills
How should I do it?

- Identify the contacts you already have and highlight if any of them work in areas of industry you are interested in.
- Attend conferences, courses and other events. Careers Network has a number of careers fairs and employer presentations open to recent graduates that enable you to meet recruiters. Keep checking the events page and always bring a good CV or business card when you attend the event.
- Prepare an ‘elevator pitch’ which is a 30 second introduction to get a contact’s attention when you are networking.
- Ask for help and advice rather than asking for a job straight away.
- Good networking is like a good friendship, try to bring something to the network as well as getting something out of it.

“

What a former Birmingham student says:

The single best piece of advice I was given during the job hunt was to always know who you’re talking to. If you go to a networking event, research the people going so you know who to target and what you might say as an opener.

”
Here are some top tips to securing a work placement

- Receive feedback on your CV or other application documents by contacting us through studenthelp

- Find graduate internships and work experience via our Careers Connect database

- Check out our directory of organisations throughout the UK who source internship opportunities at a local level for recent graduates

- Consider tapping into the hidden job market and applying to companies speculatively for work experience or volunteering opportunities. Make use of online resources such as Yell.com to source contact details for relevant organisations in your area

- Follow up your speculative application with a phone call. Remind the recruiter about your CV and reaffirm how motivated and enthusiastic you are to secure experience with them

- Apply to more than one company to give yourself a better chance of being successful
Feeling a bit stranded since you graduated? Moved back home and feel out of touch?

You have access to Careers Network services for the first 2 years after you graduate so make use of us. Our aim is to enhance your career prospects and support you with your career plans whatever you decide to do after graduation.

- Look out for our graduate e-newsletter to find out about up-coming events, job opportunities, and our specialist graduate support.
- Send us a message through Student Help to access advice online, in person, by email, phone or Skype.
- Find jobs, graduate internships and work experience via our Careers Connect database.
- Book a mock interview for vital feedback on your interview technique prior to an interview.
- Get further information to help you decide what to do next, how to use recruitment agencies, how to access the hidden job market and much more.
- Keep up-to-date with key dates for relevant recruitment fairs and employer events on the university campus.
- Get personal coaching and on-going support with your career plans for up to 2 years after graduation.
University of Birmingham – a lifelong relationship!

There’s a whole host of ways to keep in touch with your University: from Facebook and LinkedIn groups, to your.bham and alumni societies. The Alumni website can give you ideas on some of the things you can do to continue to feel part of our community. Check their jobs board for great opportunities.

Tell us what you’re doing six months on
- We will contact you around six months after you graduate to find out what you’re up to. All this information goes into the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education national survey and ultimately the ‘What Do Graduates Do?’ publications
- Keeping in touch and letting us know what your first role is will help people like you in the future
- You can find all of Careers Network’s contact details at the back of this booklet

What a former Birmingham student says:

Keep in touch – one of your fellow students could be the link into your next position – it really is a small world out there. Good luck!
GET in touch

For full details on how we can help you please get in contact:

For Graduate Careers information
www.birmingham.ac.uk/graduatecareers

For all other queries and events
www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/careers

@careersbham
www.facebook.com/careersbham

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