

Graduate employers are looking for students who have made productive use of their extra-curricular time and who show an understanding of workplace culture. UWE Careers encourages you to engage with career planning from your **first year of study**. The more careers activities you are involved in, the better prepared you'll be to compete effectively throughout the recruitment process and beyond.

This timeline guides you through some key actions that will develop your employability skills, build confidence, and empower you to take better control of your career management. Although the structure is developmental, you might choose to revisit some actions as your thinking and experiences evolve.

Foundation & Year 1

Try not to place too much pressure on yourself. You are not expected to know what you want to do with the rest of your life! This is a time to settle into university life, explore options, build relationships and your confidence.

- Explore the [Career Toolkit](#) and start your career management journey.
- Get involved in [university life](#) and activities that energize and interest you. Make friends, discover new interests, and start developing valuable skills.
- Visit the [Careers Service](#). Find out what we offer and how we can support you.
- Take a look at this short [Making Careers Decisions workbook](#)
- Get [work experience](#), a [short-term internship](#), [volunteer](#), become a [Student Rep](#) or [Student Ambassador](#).
- Visit the [Prospects](#) website and explore what counts as relevant work experience.
- [Develop your self-awareness](#) around your strengths, values, and motivations, so you know what will be important to you in your future career.
- Start exploring your career options using: [What can I do with my degree?](#) or [What jobs would suit me?](#)
- Make a start on your [CV](#). This will be important for any work experience that you apply for.
- Keep a record of your evolving skills and make it easier to retrieve examples for future applications. Use the [STARR Technique](#) to help you evidence your skills effectively.
- Attend some careers events including: [volunteering events](#), [employer events](#) and [careers workshops](#). Visit the [Events Diary](#) for full listings.

Year 2

This is the optimum time for focusing on your skills development and understanding yourself better. Build networks and enhance your CV by seeking experiences that also relate to your career aspirations.

- Reflect on your first year and revisit the [Making Careers Decisions workbook](#) to help you stay on track and make a plan.
- If you have the option, seriously consider a [placement year](#) to develop the skills and experience required by graduate employers. Be aware of early application deadlines.
- Develop skills that relate to your career aspirations. [Ask a member of the Careers & Enterprise team](#), if you need guidance around gaining tailored work experience.
- Explore your career ideas with Graduate Prospects: [job sectors](#) and [job profiles](#), and Career Toolkit [Labour Market Information](#).
- Unsure of your options? Complete the [Prospects - What Job Would Suit Me?](#) quiz and take a look at the [Prospects – What can I do with my degree?](#) pages.
- Find a mentor and build your network through [UWE Alumni](#) and the [Equity programme](#).
- Update your [CV](#) and [build your LinkedIn profile](#). Be ready to respond to opportunities as they arise.
- Register with [Handshake](#), use UWE's [Employer Tracker](#), attend [employer events](#), [network](#) and attend a [careers workshop](#).
- Access the [Career Toolkit](#) for a range of comprehensive resources and tools.
- Apply for [short-term internships](#) and [work experience](#) during your vacation periods. Visit [Prospects](#) for an overview of what counts as work experience.
- Interested in working, studying or volunteering abroad? Explore the range of [global experiences](#) available to you.

Year 3 & Postgraduate

The key to a stress-free final year is not to leave your career management to the last minute. Be aware of deadlines for graduate schemes and post-graduate study. Continue to build upon your skills whilst maintaining a healthy work-study balance.

- Review your career plans and use [CareerSet's Career Map tool](#) to learn more about roles, including career pathways and future skills.
- Use [UWE's LinkedIn Learning subscription](#) to develop your career plan and develop crucial skills.
- Register with [Handshake](#), use UWE's [Employer Tracker](#), attend [employer events](#), [network](#) and attend a [careers workshop](#).
- Look out for [Graduate schemes](#) and [application deadlines](#). Typical recruitment peaks are between September – November and May - July.
- Refine your [CV](#) and [LinkedIn](#) profile, using [CareerSet](#). Be ready to respond to opportunities as they arise throughout your final year.
- Apply for [postgraduate study or research opportunities](#). Check individual providers for application deadlines. [Ask a member of the Careers & Enterprise team](#) if you need some assistance.
- Prepare for applications, interviews, and assessment centres and post-graduate study with the [Career Toolkit](#).
- Attend a [careers workshop](#), to hone your applications.
- Continue to broaden your occupational awareness using [Prospects Job Match](#). Explore sectors that will best utilise your skills and values.
- Check out '[What Do Graduates Do?](#)'
- Find a mentor and build your network through [UWE Alumni](#) and the [Equity programme](#).
- Still unsure where you are headed? Visit the [Careers Lounge](#), [consult with your college careers team](#) and [ask a question](#).