

Marketing Yourself Effectively to UK Employers

UK employers want to recruit the best graduates from the thousands entering the job market each. They look for:

Academic Qualifications

Securing a job is about more than academic grades. However, many graduate roles require a 2:1 for your first degree, although some employers will accept a 2:2. They may also be interested in your prior qualifications. For international qualifications, a “Letter of Comparability” will show what your grade is equivalent to in the UK. This service is provided by UK NARIC (<https://www.naric.org.uk/naric/>) which can be accessed by your School Admissions office on your behalf or at [Student Enquiries](#) in the Rutland Building.

If you are doing a Master’s qualification, you will need to clearly show how it has increased your knowledge in your chosen field of work. However, a Master’s degree is not usually a substitute for work experience or lower first degree grade.

If you are a doctoral researcher, see the [Doctoral Researchers](#) section for resources and guidance.

Work Experience

Work experience of any kind enables you to develop skills, gain experience and potentially the opportunity to develop your professional network. Experience relevant to your academic subject such as a one year placement or summer internship will strengthen your CV and attract employers. Visit our [Get a placement or work experience](#) section for further information.

Vacation or part-time work can also give you the opportunity to experience UK culture, improve your English and develop various skills that can be transferred to any job. If you have no work experience or it is very limited, think about increasing this before you apply for a graduate position. The [Find jobs and opportunities](#) and [Make applications](#) sections will help you to approach this.

Skills

When applying for jobs you should provide evidence of your skills gained from all your activities including work experience, academic work, volunteering, your social life and interests. Research how to develop your employment skills, otherwise known as [employability](#), particularly the section listing [skills employers seek](#)

You can also gain experience by getting involved in university life including sports, societies and taking up positions of responsibilities on your course, in the Students’ Union or in your hall of residence. Organising events or captaining a sports team can provide great examples of how you have used and developed your skills and shows employers you have skills outside your academic qualifications.

English Language

Whether you are looking to work in the UK or back in your home country, if you are not a native English speaker, employers are likely to expect you to have developed good quality English. Speak regularly with native English speakers on your course, in halls of residence, through part time work, volunteering, clubs and societies or other general experiences.

Support with your English is available during term time (in-sessional classes) through the [Academic Language Support Service](#) - <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/alss/>

Communicating the Benefits of Employing International Students to UK Employers

In addition to your individual skills and experience you should highlight that:

- Knowledge of other cultures and a global awareness can be invaluable to businesses which operate internationally.
- Living and studying overseas demonstrates independence and an ability to adapt to new cultures and take on new challenges.
- Speaking English as well as another language is beneficial in a global market.
- Thinking about 'global competencies' can be helpful when develop your CV, <https://www.independent.co.uk/student/study-abroad/uk-industry-needs-global-graduates-but-what-does-that-mean-8613898.html>

Understanding Permission to Work in the UK

Not all employers are aware of current UK immigration rules, so you should develop a good understanding of the permission required to work in the UK. Visit our [International Students](#) page for more information.

On application forms and CVs make it clear that you are eligible to work in the UK on a Tier 2 General visa. For example, a Non-EEA Undergraduate (UG) student could use a phrase such as "Eligible to work for 20 hours a week during study and full time during vacations with Tier 4 student visa". Non-EEA Postgraduate (PG) students are eligible to work for 20 hours a week during study until the end of their course, and only then can work full-time until expiry of a tier 4 visa.

If employers ask for your National Insurance (NI number) you can apply for one by following the instructions from [Student Services](#) - <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/services/isas/living-uk/work/>.

Presenting Yourself Effectively

Understanding UK business culture is key to gaining a graduate job. Your body language, spoken language and the way you speak will all influence employers' perceptions of you and their decision whether to hire you or not. The country guide for the UK on Goinglobal (<https://internal.lboro.ac.uk/info/careers/students-and-graduates/careers-toolkit/online-tools/>) provides useful information, as will attending Careers Events for international students.

You can find out about how UK style interviews and assessment centres work and how to best prepare in our [Make applications](#) section. You can also book a mock interview with a careers consultant at [Careers Network](#).

The guidebook [How to excel in applications and interviews](#) is also a great source of advice.

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