



Planning your next steps after graduation

Don't worry if you aren't sure what to do next. Congratulate yourself on getting a good degree from a top university. These guidelines will help you to plan ahead. You have access to all our Careers Network services for several years after graduation. We offer appointments via video call and telephone. We can also give feedback on job applications and interview advice.

So what next? Not sure what to do?

You don't need any career ideas to see us, lots of people we see just want to get started.

Steps you could take include:

- [Book a careers coaching appointment](#) with one of our Careers Coaches.
- Try some of our online [psychometric tests](#) – you can access these as a graduate. These can give you an insight into your preferred learning styles, personality, values and match you to potential suitable careers.
- Consider jobs which play to your strengths – avoid ones that don't. Think about what you have enjoyed from previous work experience and extra-curricular activities. What kind of environment do you like to work in? What do you want from a job? What gives you a buzz? [Prospects Career Planner](#) is useful for generating ideas.

Do you know what type of job you want?

You may have a career aim but haven't had success with applications. Consider where you are falling down in the process, is there a pattern?

- It's a good idea to get feedback from us on your applications. We can review CVs, covering letters and application forms and give interview support.
- Do you need more work experience? We can advise you how to source organisations and how to network.
- Make sure you are looking in the right places for work, we can direct you to where to find relevant opportunities.

What can I do at home whilst job hunting?

Even if you're working whilst planning and applying for graduate jobs or courses, there's lots you can be doing from home to develop yourself even further

- Consider jobs and voluntary opportunities which are online, clearly there has been a big increase in this area in recent years.
- Look at online courses, many of these are free.
- Continue to research career plans, keep up-to-date with news in the sectors which appeal to you, maybe join a professional body, if there is one in your chosen area, and network via social media.

Considering further study?

This can strengthen your applications; for some jobs (such as lawyer or teacher) it's essential. Further study can deepen your knowledge in an area you may have previously studied or take you into a new subject area. Typically, these start in Autumn, however some postgraduate

courses now have a January start date. Check providers for details. We can advise on this and offer support with your applications. [Book a careers coaching appointment](#) to discuss this.

Looking for temporary work?

You may be looking for temporary work, whilst you consider your longer-term plans. Temporary jobs will earn you money and help evidence skills whilst you are planning your next step. You could maybe do voluntary work too. [Indeed.co.uk](#) is a really useful resource to find job vacancies, searchable by date order. If you are looking for temporary work, it's crucial to make time to research your career plans and to make connections in you chosen sectors (otherwise you could drift), so free time up for this during evenings and weekends or on your days off.

Using Social Media?

Social media is a powerful tool to use when job hunting and an increasingly large number of employers will Google your name and look at your social media profiles if you apply to them. How do you look online? Here's some advice for using social media:

- Separate your social profiles from your professional profiles. You can still have social ones, but consider how these will look to potential employers.
- Decide which social media (LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram) is most suitable for you to use and the one your chosen industry uses.
 - LinkedIn is probably the most useful tool for graduates and there is lots of support available (such as webinars, PDFs and forums) to help you make the most of it. Many jobs are advertised on LinkedIn, so set up a job alert. You could research Loughborough University alumni and find out what they have gone on to do. Follow other influencers, companies or pages that are relevant.
- Consider writing a blog or creating a vlog to get across who you are in person, your values, where you're coming from etc. Employers are keen to know these things about you so if you can do it in a way that is both professional and personable, go for it!

Make sure you come across as professional, positive and engaged. If you want to discuss this further, and maybe review your LinkedIn profile, please [book a careers appointment](#).

Thinking of starting your own business?

Whether you're an experienced entrepreneur, or wondering how to get started, Loughborough Enterprise Network (LEN) can support you at every stage of your journey by providing valuable opportunities to develop a highly desirable, entrepreneurial mindset. Much of our support and any information you need with regards to services can be found on the LEN [website](#).

Wanting to work overseas?

This is a popular option, although it may be easier to be transferred overseas from your UK employer, if they have bases or clients in other countries. [GoinGlobal](#) – on the Careers Network website has country profiles and job listings – you can access this as a Loughborough graduate. The [Indeed](#) website also advertises vacancies in other countries.