

Careers Fair - Possible questions to ask employers

Anticipate questions from employers and give some thought to your answers. They may ask you about your degree, what relevant knowledge you have to offer, examples of your skills and experience, why you are considering a career in this area / organisation and what you know about their organisation or industry.

You may wish to think about asking some of the following questions:

- What type of projects is the company involved in?
- What are the company plans for the next five years?
- What are the key changes within the industry?
- How would you describe the organisation's culture and environment?
- What would the job involve on a day-to-day basis?
- What specific skills are you looking for?
- Would I work on my own initiative and in a team?
- What are the challenges of the job?
- Will I be expected to work at various locations in the UK?
- Are there opportunities to work overseas?
- What training opportunities are available?
- Will there be an opportunity for me to work towards professional qualifications?
- What are the prospects for progression and promotion?
- What has happened to the graduates you recruited last year? What are they doing now?
- Do you offer work placements? If so, what happens on a typical placement?
- What is the level of competition for entry to the organisation/course?
- Would you prefer graduates to have some previous work experience?
- What is your selection process?
- Do you give feedback as part of the selection process?
- Would I be able to apply again if I was unsuccessful on my first application?
- Can I apply with a lower predicted degree result or lower A level points if I have mitigating circumstances or a good record of work experience?

Try **not** to ask questions that can be easily answered by looking at the employer's website eg:

- Where do you advertise job vacancies? How many graduates do you recruit each year? How should I apply? Do you accept speculative CVs? What qualifications do you require? Is there a closing date?
- Don't approach an employer without a question in mind, and don't just collect the freebies!

International students

- Don't make work visas your first question to employers. It is important to show your genuine interest in the company and the jobs on offer. Read the information on the employer's website – check that you meet their essential criteria and they will accept applications from international students / graduates.
- Learn about the schemes under which you can apply for employment in the UK before you go to the fair so that you are ready to explain these options if an employer asks, see UKCISA website www.ukcisa.org.uk. A list of all UK employers who can sponsor international students is available on the Gov.uk website www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers