

Calculating Careers

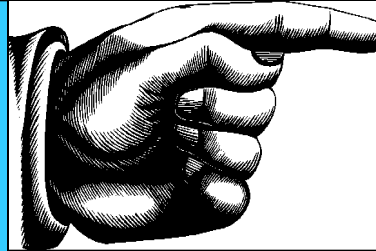
- helping first years develop
interview skills

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Why do we need to help our students with job applications?

We have an excellent Careers Service so why don't we simply point our students in their direction?

CAREERS
SERVICE



We found that many students never visited the Careers Service or left it too late.

In a recent survey of our first year undergraduates we found that 67% of students had no idea of what they wanted to do when they graduated.

The main message when it comes to career planning is to **START EARLY!**

In first year, students should be thinking about developing their CV, investigating different careers and practising interview skills.

Many financial institutions offer 'spring weeks' to first year students.

Summer internships are an excellent way to gain experience. Employers are increasingly using internships as a recruitment tool.

Students need good marks in first year.

Even if they don't get the internship they get some experience of applying for a job.



Calculating Careers Fair

Held every year since 2008 in October in the School of Mathematics

Over 20 graduate employers attend the event

- ◆ **Financial institutions** – Barclays, PWC, Co-operative
- ◆ **Technology companies** – IBM, Rapiscan, NAG
- ◆ **Energy companies** – Shell, BP, N-Power
- ◆ **Others** – Teach First, Kelloggs, William Hill

Over 800 maths undergraduates and postgraduates attended the 2012 event

Panel sessions for finance,
technology, teaching and alumni.

Advice on CVs and applications.

Pre-event talks.

Follow-up events throughout the
year.

Excellent feedback from students
and employers.



Interview Programme

Experience for first year students in applying for internships.

Team of higher year student interviewers are trained in short-listing and interview skills by professional recruiters.

First years apply for mock internships.

Interviewers do the short-listing and interviewing.

First years get feedback on their application forms and interview technique.

Applicants also take an In-Tray Test and a Psychometric Test.



Feedback

Interviewers: "Training gives you a good insight into what is going through the mind of an interviewer."

"Training made us think about aspects I had not previously considered."

"Interviewing people gives you a very good idea of what not to do in interviews yourself."

Interviewees: "I developed interview skills such as answering questions under pressure and how to adapt experiences to suit a specific role."

"I have started to realise what employers are looking out for."

"I know what I need to change in order to be more successful in the application process."

Student Led Employability Audit

Team of 12 maths undergraduates and a postgraduate working with representatives from industry and the Careers Service.

Skills audit of all our 1st and 2nd year course units and most of 3rd year units as well as extra-curricular activities like PASS and Calculating Careers and the Interview Programme.

12 employability skills selected:

- Communication
- Numeracy
- Team working
- Problem solving
- Project management
- Research skills
- Self management
- Commercial awareness
- Creative thinking
- Positive attitude
- IT skills
- Career management

Findings:

Extra-curricular activities scored high across most skills.

Most course units scored high in communication, problem solving and numeracy, creative thinking and self management.

Most courses scored low in career management, research and commercial awareness.

Exceptions included course units:

- Career Management Skills
- Maths Workshop
- Projects

Across all our courses and activities, students have the opportunity to develop all 12 skills.

Thanks

Any questions?

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