



How UK  
universities  
prepare  
students for  
career success

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## How UK universities prepare students for career success

- Industry relevant courses and professional accreditations
- Transferable skills
- Work placements
- Careers service
- Case study - LJMU

## Industry relevant courses and professional accreditations

- Certain professions require a specific degree
- The UK is a leading provider of ‘professional’ courses, e.g.
  - Civil Engineering
  - Medical related professions
  - Architecture
  - Engineering
  - Law
  - and many more...
- Other courses offer membership of professional bodies, or even exemptions from professional exams, e.g. ACCA, CIM, MRICS

## Transferable skills

*‘Employers are looking for something more than a degree in their graduate recruits, expecting applicants to show an understanding of the world of work, awareness of business and the ability to help organisations tackle change.’*

Enhancing Employability, Recognising Diversity  
(2002)

## Transferable skills

- UK universities offer more than academic study
- Skills learned in the classroom are invaluable in the work place
- Employers value skills such as:
  - Analysing and Solving Problems
  - Team Working and Interpersonal Skills
  - Verbal Communication
  - Written Communication
  - Personal Planning and Organising
  - Initiative
- Not only are these skills important in the workplace they are also essential for passing a UK degree
- These skills are embedded into the teaching, learning and assessment in UK degrees

## Work placements

- ‘Sandwich year’, ‘industrial placement’, ‘year in industry’...
  - One year long
  - Paid
  - Provides *relevant* industry experience
  - University will help find the placement, but the student **MUST** apply!
- A sandwich year is much more than ‘work experience’, it enables students to:
  - see subject knowledge applied in a real context
  - develop subject knowledge and skills
  - identify or refine career aspirations
  - make links with future employers

## Work placement

- Key aspects of a sandwich year:

<b>Learning about oneself</b>	<b>Learning and practising skills</b>
<b>Experiencing the world of work</b>	<b>Experiencing how to learn and manage oneself in a range of situations</b>

## Careers service

- One-to-one guidance on how to achieve career aspirations
- Careers and job hunting workshops
  - CV writing
  - Interview techniques
  - ‘How to get in to...’ sessions
  - Guest speakers from industry
  - Presentation skills
  - Application forms
  - ...and much more
- Vacancy database
- ‘Milk round’/careers events

## Case Study - LJMU

- Word of Work programme
  - Unique to LJMU
  - Developed and supported by industry
  - Regarded as best practice by UK government
  - Three elements
    - **Work related learning**
    - **Graduate skills** – written and verbal communication, analysis/problem solving, ICT, personal planning organising, numerical reasoning, initiative, and team work
    - **World of Work certificate** - (supported by Sony, Oracle, Shell, etc) covering Self Awareness, Organisational Awareness and Making Things Happen and ending with an interview with an employer verifier
- Ready for work programme – workplace skills, self employment, customer care, assessment centres, networking, etc

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