Making the most of your time at university

Lizzie Mortimer
Careers Consultant
Why am I here now?

- What you do this year, next year and in 3\textsuperscript{rd}/4\textsuperscript{th} year really matters!
- It takes time to decide what you want to do
- Leaving it until final year is too late
- If you don’t believe me…
- “Students should be encouraged to think about their career very early in their studies. …job hunting can be a long and difficult process. The university should warn or make students aware of the difficulties that arise if left too late… the longer it gets the more difficult it gets.”

Recent Graduate
What are employers looking for?

“A degree alone is not enough. Employers are looking for more than just technical skills and knowledge of a degree discipline. They particularly value skills such as communication, teamworking and problem-solving. Job applicants who can demonstrate that they have developed these skills will have a real advantage."

Digby Jones, Former Director-General CBI
What do employers want?

Your unique blend of transferable skills and experiences

Work Experience

Academic Ability

Extra-curricular experiences
What skills are employers looking for?

Some examples…

- Communication (verbal, written, interpersonal)
- Teamwork
- Problem solving and initiative
- Commercial awareness
- Planning, organisation and time management
- Negotiation and persuasion
- Leadership
- Ability to work under pressure
Developing those skills….

(1) Your course
seminars, tutorials, workshops, self study, group work, presentations, essays, exams etc

(2) Jobs/work experience
Part time or summer jobs, internships, work experience, taster courses

(3) Volunteering
Local, UK, overseas, related to your career, more responsibility?

(4) Getting involved
Travel, sports, societies
How to find the opportunities:

- **MyCareersHub** [www.ed.ac.uk/careers/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/careers/) for advertised part-time, semester, vacation and internship opportunities (UK and overseas)
- **‘Edinburgh Edge’** database – [www.employability.ed.ac.uk/student](http://www.employability.ed.ac.uk/student)
- **University societies** - [www.eusa.ed.ac.uk](http://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk) (over 240 to choose from!)
- **University sports clubs** – [www.ed.ac.uk/sports-union](http://www.ed.ac.uk/sports-union) (63 clubs)
- **EUSA Volunteering** – [www.volunteering.eusa.ed.ac.uk](http://www.volunteering.eusa.ed.ac.uk)
How the Careers Service can help…

**MyCareersHub**
- Part-time jobs
- Vacation work & internships
- Graduate jobs

**Applying for Jobs**
- Preparing applications, CVs & interviews

**Researching options**
- Information on different careers – web and paper
- Careers talks, workshops & events
- Talk to a Careers Consultant – 20 minute appointments available M-F during semester

**Careers Service, 3rd Floor, Main Library Building**
[www.ed.ac.uk/careers](http://www.ed.ac.uk/careers)

[Contact information](http://www.ed.ac.uk/careers)
Great opportunity to volunteer at Turing Festival this August.

TURING
EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FESTIVAL

AUGUST 10, 2015
LIZZIE MORTIMER
EVENTS, VOLUNTEER
EVENTS, NETWORKING
EDIT

Codebase is the main organiser behind Turing Festival, that forms part of the Edinburgh Festival and is running 21st – 23rd August.

www.turingfestival.com

Codebase are on the look out for volunteers to help at the festival, who will help look after speakers, sorting out guest registration, and more. Those who take part will get to see all the talks, as well as getting invites to the after parties on Friday and Saturday.

If you are interested in giving up some of your time send an email to lauren@thisiscodebase.com asap.

Get a job at the Graduate Recruitment Fair next week

Planning to come along to the Edinburgh Graduate Recruitment Fair on Tuesday 26th May? Want to get a graduate job or an internship?

OK – people don’t walk away from Recruitment Fairs with a definite job offer in their pocket, but you can significantly increase your chances of a job offer later down the line because of how you act at the fair on Tuesday.