

Careers help for Kent graduates

Careers help from the CES does not end when you leave the University! It is at this time that many graduates have most need of careers advice and this continues to be available to Kent graduates.

If you are [graduating from the University of Kent this year](#), please fill in our [vacancy email form](#).

In December, the CES will ask you to complete a questionnaire seeking information on the “Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education” (known as DLHE). It’s important that you do this, so that we can make sure that prospective students have accurate information about the careers or courses that Kent graduates go into. Whatever you are doing at this point in time, please make sure that you complete this questionnaire for us.

You are still able to use all the [CES facilities](#), in person or via email, for up to 3 years after graduation.

If you graduated more than three years ago we may still be able to help!

Although our knowledge and experience is focused on opportunities for new graduates, this still may be appropriate for you if, for example:

- You have taken time out to travel and are now seeking a first graduate job;
- Your first job has not worked out as you hoped and you want to make a career change;
- You have been employed in a non-graduate role and want to move up

We are less likely to be able to help in situations such as the following:

- You have spent the past three years gaining specialised professional experience and qualifications which you want to use directly in your career;
- You have relocated to another country and want advice on career opportunities there

If you do feel that advice from a University careers adviser would be beneficial, you are welcome to [contact us](#), whatever you are now doing and wherever you are located.

Are you looking for a job?

Even if you know exactly what you want to do, it is worth being flexible. Don't restrict your applications to the household-name employers or to very competitive career areas such as investment banking, marketing or media. Broaden your career search by looking at other, less well-known careers that offer similar experience and job satisfaction.

Don't rule out jobs that are not specifically labelled as “graduate jobs”: these can be good starting points. Many graduates now start their career in a graduate internship – a fixed term position that gives you a chance to try out, or get experience in, a graduate-level job. These may lead on to an offer of a permanent position!

Useful websites:

- [The Careers & Employability Service's vacancy database](#) advertises vacancies for graduates sent to us directly by all kinds of recruiters.
- [Prospects](#)
- [TARGET Jobs](#)
- [Milkround](#)
- [The Graduate Talent Pool](#): a partnership between Government and employers, designed to help new and recent graduates gain real work experience through internships in business, finance, the media, charities, the public sector, IT, manufacturing and many other sectors.
- [Graduate STEP](#) - 2-3 month internships offering meaningful, paid work for recent graduates
- [Inspiring Interns](#) graduate internships, jobs and work placements, mostly based in and around London.

"I still don't know what I want to do..."

Don't worry – many other graduates are in the same position, and there are many opportunities open whatever your degree subject. The following resources should help you to get started but you may find it useful to discuss your situation with a careers adviser.

- [Prospects Planner](#) a powerful program to help you choose a graduate career related to your interests, skills and values
- [What can I do with my degree in ...?](#)
- [Choosing a Career](#)

I don't have any experience...

Don't write off any work experience as irrelevant – casual jobs in retail and hospitality jobs can add skills such as "*customer service*", "*working in a busy team*" and "*ability to work under pressure*" to your CV – things that most graduate employers will look for. Voluntary work can also help you to gain experience, improve your skills, boost your confidence and build up your CV.

I'm thinking of further study...

This does not just mean postgraduate degrees, but can also include vocational and practical skills training: for some career areas, this may be more relevant than a Master's degree. There are many short courses that you can take, often part-time or by distance learning, to build up skills such as:

- IT and office skills, particularly databases and spreadsheets, are important in almost any career area. The [European Computer Driving Licence](#) (ECDL) is a good way to develop skills in the core MS Office packages.
- Driving is another useful skill, opening up jobs that require travel or are located in hard-to-reach areas so, if you don't yet have a full licence, it is worth trying to achieve this as soon as possible.

- [Languages](#) are always useful and brushing up on your rusty GCSE French, through an organised course or through self-study, could be valuable.
- Numeracy is important for many careers but a skill that many graduates feel that they lack! If you have a low GCSE grade in Maths, or just want to improve your numeracy skills, retaking your GCSE, or taking a course such as the Open University's "*Starting with Maths*" (course code Y182) would be worthwhile.

If you are [considering further academic study](#), think about how a postgraduate degree will fit in to your career plans – is it really important to employers in the areas that interest you? Will you need practical experience even with a postgrad degree?

Advice and help for graduates of other universities

Like many other British and Irish universities, the University of Kent is happy to offer help and guidance to graduates of other universities during the first three years after their graduation if you are unable to visit your own university. However, we must give priority to our own students, particularly during the busy Autumn and Spring terms.

At any time of year you are welcome to:

- Use the [Careers Information Room](#), where you will find a range of material on jobs, employers and postgraduate study, including graduate directories, booklets, magazines and general career guides.
- Use the computer facilities: we can provide access to the Internet for careers purposes (although priority in using the PCs will be given to Kent students). Ask a member of staff at the Careers Helpdesk.

During vacations only, we may be able to offer longer careers guidance interviews - please ask at the Reception Desk.

Although we will help graduates of other universities to the best of our ability, please note that this ability may be limited if your degree is in a subject not offered at Kent, or you graduated more than three years ago.

These advice and information resources are offered at the Canterbury campus and are for graduates of other universities only: current students at other universities should contact their own careers advisory service.

You can find contact details for all UK and Irish careers services at www.prospects.ac.uk

