



University of  
South Australia

Career  
Services

# Put yourself in the picture...

Prepare for your  
future career



# Plan for your career

## Beginning of degree or program

Develop a career plan and set some goals for your first year.



Reflect on the past year, adjust your career plan and set your next goals.

## Mid degree or program

Know the ins-and-outs of recruitment and selection, and how professional bodies can add value.



Apply for graduate recruitment programs.

Don't forget to continue building your work history.

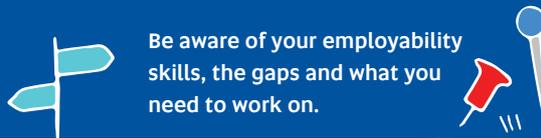
Develop and build your networks.



Reflect on the past year and develop a job search strategy.



Be aware of your employability skills, the gaps and what you need to work on.



Develop your resume and social media professional profile.



Build your practical work experience and learn from it.



Consider how employers identify talent and what your competitive advantage is.



Start preparing to transition to the workforce.



## Prior to graduation



Continue to develop your leadership qualities and other employability skills.





**"My exchange in the UK helped push me out of my comfort zone and prepared me to deal with all the things that a real job throws at you."**

**TYRON**  
Bachelor of  
Mechanical and  
Mechatronic  
Engineering

Outfitting  
Engineer,  
Navantia  
Australia

# How do I turn my studies into a job and then a career?

**Studying at university is a fantastic step towards your future, but it's just the first. Get inspired, and discover where your studies can take you – they're a guide not a restriction.**

**From the start, you'll need to research.**

Know your industry/discipline – where does it lead? Know the job market – how is it growing? Think about how your traits and skills could be valued and applied.

**Then, start to learn.**

Talk to people, learn about their jobs. How did they get there? What do they do? Think... could you follow a similar path? Weave your professional network now.

**The more you do, the more you'll discover.**

As you gain insight, your career pathway will become clearer.



**"I work in aged care and get to maximise each of my individual clients' independence and quality of life."**

**BRIAN**  
*Bachelor of Health Science, Master of Occupational Therapy*

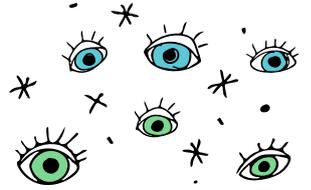
*Occupational Therapist, Wellness and Lifestyle Aged Care Services*

# But what are employers looking for? What will give me a competitive advantage?

**It's no secret you've got competition in the job market. As if it weren't volatile enough, right?**

**The secret: employers look for well-rounded candidates.** Of course, it's important to do well in your studies, but those students who have been involved in additional activities (like part-time work, volunteering, internships, student exchanges, sports and clubs) are the ones with an advantage.

**To stand out, consider your personal edge.** There's only one 'you', so be aware of your skills, knowledge and attributes. Any extracurricular activity is valuable, whether it is related to your studies or not. Think about what you're doing now, to make sure you will stand out and shine later.



**"My graphic design degree helped me get into the world of international fashion."**

**CLAUDIA**  
Bachelor of Visual Communication  
(Graphic Design)

Senior Graphic Designer,  
Australian Fashion Labels



# So what do I need to do at the start of my studies?



**Now you've started studying, it's time to plan, prepare and set some goals.**

## TIPS AND HINTS

- » Develop your own career plan
- » Understand where your qualification could take you
- » Check out the UniSA Career Services website for everything you need (jobs, resources, events)
- » Join a club (visit USASA and UniSA Sport)
- » Start volunteering (visit UniSA Volunteering)
- » Start building your work history, networks and employability skills
- » Start applying for part-time work; attend a workshop or visit the 'drop-in' service for advice
- » Attend careers events and the annual UniSA Careers Expo





**"Returning to study totally changed my direction, I've now got my foot in the door of a new career."**

**CATHERINE**  
Bachelor  
of Business  
(Human  
Resources)

HR Coordinator,  
Relationships  
Australia SA

# How can I continue to make progress throughout my studies?

**Now you've crafted your soft skills and strategy, it's time to continue your professional development. Getting your foot in the door will lead from one experience to the next, but the longer you wait, the harder it can be.**

## TIPS AND HINTS

- » Take on work placements or internships
- » Investigate the most valuable options for your free electives
- » Look for vacation work to make the most of your university breaks
- » Find a mentor to learn from
- » Study abroad or go on an exchange
- » Participate in international volunteering opportunities
- » Consolidate your plans with a Career Adviser
- » Attend careers events and the annual UniSA Careers Expo

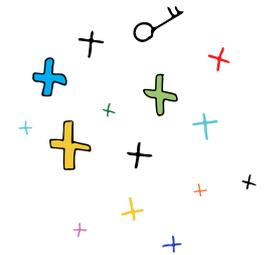


**"I wanted a qualification that opened doors to different career pathways. My pharmacy degree has delivered this with multiple industry opportunities."**

**FARES**  
*Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours), Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice*

*Clinical Pharmacist, Central Adelaide Local Health Network*

# How can I secure my dream job once I graduate?



**Now you've got the experience, skills and knowledge to show your true worth, you just need to communicate it well!**

## TIPS AND HINTS

- » Develop a job search strategy
- » Perfect your resume
- » Know your employability essentials and how to respond to selection criteria
- » Master writing outstanding cover letters
- » Brush up on your interview skills – for phone, in-person and online
- » Apply for graduate program positions – start in March for opportunities in the following year
- » Take every opportunity to continue building your work experience
- » Utilise career resources, Career Services Drop-Ins and Career Adviser one-on-one appointments
- » Attend careers events and the annual UniSA Careers Expo



**"I'm using my degree to help supply safe, clean and reliable water to our State – that's pretty cool!"**

**ERINY**  
Bachelor  
of Civil  
Engineering  
(Honours)

Graduate  
Civil Engineer,  
SA Water

# Where can I find more help if I need it?

Come and see UniSA Career Services in your first year, explore our extensive range of services and resources and keep coming back to see what's on offer to give you that competitive edge when you graduate. You have invested time, effort and money in a degree – make it work for you so you can land that dream job when you graduate.

Visit [unisa.edu.au/careers](https://unisa.edu.au/careers) for more information.

Career Services is here to support you on every step of your journey. We will help you put together your career development plan whilst you are at university to ultimately achieve your career goals.

Visit [unisa.edu.au/careers](https://unisa.edu.au/careers) for more information on our services.

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