ATTENDING CAREERS FAIRS

Our range of Careers Fairs each year promotes many career opportunities across all degree areas: accounting, law, arts, commerce, biotechnology, consulting, engineering, environmental services, financial services, human services, information technology, management, research and development, and the sciences, to name just a few! Plus look out for Online Fairs such as the Online Public Sector Recruitment Guide. These fairs are open to all Flinders students. Come along if you are:

• a student or a graduate
• seeking ideas for your future career
• seeking a graduate position
• interested in a career with leading private or government organisations.

Careers Fairs
• Accounting, Commerce & Business ‘Meet & Greet’
• Science/IT/Engineering
• Law
• Teaching
• Nursing & Midwifery
• Health & Community Services

Visit: www.flinders.edu.au/careers/services/fairs/fairs_home.cfm for more information. This web page will be regularly updated with details of attending employers and the disciplines from which they recruit.

WHICH FAIRS DO I NEED TO ATTEND?

Accounting, Commerce & Business
In addition to graduate employers seeking Accounting, Commerce & Business students, a number of employers who attend are looking for students from a broad range of disciplines. In recent years, this has included organisations such as: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (all disciplines), Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, Hays, NAB, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Taxation Office, SA Water etc.

Science/IT /Engineering
In addition to graduate employers seeking Science/IT/Engineering students, a number of employers who attend are looking for students from a broad range of disciplines. In recent years, this has included organisations such as: AusAID, Australian Secret Intelligence Service, Centrelink, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation, Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO), Defence Signals Directorate, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation, Defence Intelligence Organisation (DIO), Defence Signals Directorate, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Defence, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, etc.

Law
This Fair is predominantly about recruitment for Law Firms, however some Government Departments, seeking a range of disciplines, may also attend, for example Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS), AusAID, Australian Taxation Office, Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development, Human Services Portfolio, Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

Teaching
South Australian, Rural, Interstate and International employers of Education graduates attend this Fair.

Nursing
Major health units recruiting graduate Nursing and Midwifery students attend this Fair.

Health & Community Services
This Fair is attended by organisations who recruit from and provide volunteering opportunities for disciplines such as: Behavioural Science, Criminal Justice, Health Science, Nursing, Legal Studies, Psychology, Allied Health, Social Work, Sociology and associated disciplines.

MAXIMISE YOUR OPPORTUNITIES AT THE CAREERS & RECRUITMENT FAIRS

Fairs are a great way to meet a wide range of graduate employers at a single event, and to explore possible career paths with different organisations. While there will be the opportunity to collect recruitment materials, and information brochures, there is much more to a careers fair than that. Here’s
your chance to interact with employers away from the context of a formal interview – and you might even glean some helpful information that will give you an edge in your applications and interviews!

HERE ARE OUR TIPS TO IMPRESS

Before the Fair
Well in advance of the event, check the list of organisations that will be attending and what disciplines they recruit from. This information will be available on the Careers and Employer Liaison Centre website and will enable you to:

• Prepare some questions to ask employers.
• Research the companies of interest … so you can ask well-informed questions, and impress the employer representatives with your knowledge of the company.

This also means that you don’t ask questions that are clearly explained on the graduate recruitment pages of their website. Plan to make a positive impression, and to present yourself in a professional manner. Show them you are prepared, career-focussed, and be ready to talk about yourself as and when appropriate. But keep it brief, these fairs are busy events, attended by many students.

At The Fair
• Visit your target employers. But also spare some time for the other organisations that may have relevant opportunities for you.
• Collect brochures and INTERACT. Above all, this is a great way to make you stand out!
• Ask your questions and, as you listen to the answers, try to get a feel for the culture of the organisation and the career paths available, beyond what is in the brochures.
• Have a notepad to jot down information.
• Have a CV on hand in case any of the employers show a particular interest in you (though remember, this is a busy event, and some may prefer to receive this information through the graduate application process).
• Sometimes the employer may bring along a representative who has been, or is currently undertaking their graduate recruitment program… this is a fantastic opportunity to find out more about what the graduate program is really like… and to ask questions about their experience of going through the selection process.
• Thank the employer representative for their time.

“Know your potential employers and if career fairs are offered, attend and ask potential employers as many questions as you can.”

Chantel, Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice, Workplace Inspector, Commonwealth Government - Adelaide Office

There will also be a stand staffed by a representative from the Careers and Employer Liaison Centre, with an array of career resources for you to collect. Please feel free to speak to our representative/s if you have any queries.

After the Fair
• If you have been invited to contact someone in an organisation, make sure you follow up promptly.
• Review the information, notes, and brochures that you have gathered.
• Plan your graduate applications, allocate time to complete them in your semester schedule, and diarise closing dates.

THE DON’TS
• Don’t arrive just before the closing time, as some employers may have packed up their stand.
• Don’t hover a metre away from the employer’s stand and avoid eye contact – this is your chance to interact with them so make the most of it!
• Don’t just take the information brochures and the freebies and then go to the next stand! We do hear from employer representatives who get frustrated when students don’t bother to talk to them or ask questions.

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK

The process
• How many graduates are you seeking?
• What’s the competition for entry like?
• What types of graduates tend to be successful in your company’s recruiting process?
• What personal qualities and professional skills/knowledge are you seeking?
• Are you recruiting postgraduate students?
• Does your company recruit graduates at other times of the year or only in specified dates?
• Is there any further training I could do to enhance my prospects of employment in your organisation?
• Do you offer work experience, industry placements or vacation work?

The application/interview
• Does your company have any preferences for the formatting or content of resumes and cover letters?
• What are the mistakes to avoid with the application, assessment centre or interview?
The organisation

• What made you choose this company? What do you enjoy most about working there? What do you enjoy least?
• What qualities are important for success in your company?
• What are the positives / downsides of working in a particular role or section?
• What would be the best way for you to get more detailed information regarding their organisation, its clients and financial performance?
• What are your company’s significant achievements?
• What goals has your organisation set for the next 2-3 years?
• You may also have specific queries about a division of the organisation that particularly interests you and specific projects within the organisation.

Professional Development

• What ongoing training is offered to graduate recruits?
• What is the possibility of pursuing further qualifications and training within the job?

Career Pathways

• What can graduates of (my discipline) expect to be doing in 2, 3 and 5 years from now?
• What advancement opportunities exist for graduates?
• What specialisations are graduates placed in after graduate programs?
• What opportunities are there for working interstate/overseas, and how quickly is this possible to achieve within a particular role/function?
• Make sure you ask a balanced range of questions (i.e. not just focussing on the benefits of the Graduate Program for you, try to cover questions relating to the skills and capabilities you can bring to the organisation).

COMMENTS FROM FLINDERS GRADUATES

“I attended most of the seminars held by the Careers and Employer Liaison Centre as well as the career fairs with good opportunities to ask questions and find out which companies you are (un) attracted to.”

Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), Graduate Officer, SA Government.

“I went to all the careers fairs every year during my degree to learn who were the leaders in my chosen industry and get a feel for the different organisations.”

Mark, Bachelor of Commerce, Graduate Accountant, DMO - Defence Material Organisation.

“Originally I went to the careers fair at Flinders University. Rather than just taking the pamphlets and leaving I stayed around to talk to different companies. The best part about the careers fair is that it is not just an opportunity for you to present yourself to the companies, it is also an opportunity for you to identify the cultures within the different companies and make choices of which ones appeal the most to you.”

Chrissy, Bachelor of Business, Graduate Position (Internal Audit) KPMG.

“You can find out which organisations in your sector are recruiting graduates by going to the Careers Fair. In addition, you can find out what kind of graduates they are looking for and this will help you a lot with your job applications. Don’t forget the free pens and candies, of course!”

Chris, Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science (Honours), Environmental Scientist, Australian Water Environments.

FINALLY

These companies are keen to market themselves to you, and to promote the advantages of their graduate program. This is your chance to market yourself to them.

So take your preparation seriously to make the most of the opportunity!