TRANSITION TO UNI & SHAPE YOUR CAREER FUTURE

Starting out at university is a very special (and busy!) time – making new friends, navigating the campus, organising your timetable and getting used to how a university course works. In all the excitement and challenges that you will encounter there are some really important things that you can do for YOU to make the most of this experience, and to set yourself up for a great time at Uni.

The great news is that the activities, involvements and responsibilities you can undertake while you are transitioning to uni can also get your career development off to a flying start! Here’s how.

ENRICH YOUR UNIVERSITY LIFE

Check out your opportunities on campus! Join campus organisations and get actively involved, for example, hold an office or participate in a committee. Be a student representative on a university consultative committee or council.

“Get involved in activities other than study: join a club, take up a sport or hobby, work in the community, tutor college students, volunteer around campus, become involved in student radio or the student newspaper. Find something you’re interested in and do it!” (From www.graduatecareers.com.au/)

Through these activities, you can make the social, academic and campus connections that can help you to settle into university life!

ENRICH YOUR CAREER

By active involvement in a club or society on campus, (or a community or professional association) you can increase your self-confidence, create a network, develop a profile of exciting experiences, and build a fantastic repertoire of employability skills - communication, team-work, leadership, problem solving, initiative, goal setting, and more!

In a few years time, when you are applying for graduate positions, you will find that graduate employers look for “all rounders” with interpersonal and social skills as well as technical/academic skills. The activities described here also look great on your resume, as they speak volumes about your potential to contribute to the workplace.

CAREER QUESTIONS? – TALK TO US!

LINK UNDER ‘WHAT’S ON’

You can meet with our Career Development Consultants from day one to talk about your career goals and to get advice on how you may achieve them.

You can talk with us if you are unsure about your career direction, or your current course and where it may lead you. Plus have your CV checked, prepare for interviews and more.

Use our Drop In Sessions, plus an extensive array of resources is available at the Careers and Employer Liaison Centre and on our website. Drop In Session times change each week and are available online.

START TO THINK ABOUT WHERE YOUR DEGREE CAN TAKE YOU...

What could your future career look like? You don’t need to know right now exactly what the ideal job is for you…. but you do need to be open to looking at the options early on in your degree. And even if you are not 100% sure where you are headed, there are still some things you can do now to prepare yourself for your future graduate career - whatever, and wherever, that may be.

The Careers and Employer Liaison Centre (Top Floor, Student Centre) has a range of resources, and programs to kick start the process for you.

Through our programs you could find yourself mentoring school students, meeting with your own workplace mentor, volunteering, or delivering a presentation to business leaders. Along the way you may connect with other students from all degree areas across the campus. So don’t leave it to your final year! Register now to take advantage of our free services and programs!

START NOW!

Check out the GradFacts Handout series: What can I do with my degree in …? These include examples of possible job titles and employers for all undergraduate degrees. Visit: www.flinders.edu.au/careers/student/Your_Career/mydegree.html
Read the profiles of successful Flinders graduates
Link Under ‘Graduate career profiles’

Register for the Graduate Skill Development Program:
Link Under ‘Build Workplace Skills’
Participate in FREE professional development workshops and receive a certificate of attendance.

GET WORK EXPERIENCE EARLY!
Register with the WorkReady Internship Program:
Link Under ‘Find Industry Experience’
Enhance your skills and experiences at University with a work placement to assist you to develop employment related skills.

UNDERGRADUATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Sign up now to receive information on Internships, Vacation Work, Vacation Scholarships, Cadetships, Cooperatives or part-time employment offered by employers of graduates.
Link Under ‘Find Industry Experience’

THE EXTRAS - EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Here’s a range of activities for you to consider – depending on your interests, commitments and availability. Look across the upcoming years of study and think about what you can do, and when. It may be that you choose to focus on one strategy per semester, or use semester breaks and summer vacations for career development activities.

Develop a range of hobbies and interests. Participate in Community groups of interest to you – for example, Trees for Life, Surf Life Saving, Rotary Clubs, CFS, Oxfam, Scouts, School Committees and Working Bees, Spiritual, ‘Friends of’ Groups (i.e. National Parks, Heysen Trail, Historic Sites, Art Galleries, etc), Local Councils’ Youth Advisory Committees, Fundraising, Badge Days, Events (Clean Up Australia Day), Committees and so on.

COMMENTS FROM FLINDERS GRADUATES
“Get in touch with the Careers Centre in your first year, and start doing professional development as soon as you can.” Chris, Technical Officer IMVS.

“It is not always easy to balance the pressures of Uni with other activities, but my advice is to try to do at least one extra thing every semester, whether it be a part-time job, sport or an interest group. You’ll be surprised what a difference it makes. …. Have fun at Uni and enjoy the experience, even if it feels like hard work at times.” John, Bachelor of Economics, Accounting (Post Grad), Analyst, Deloitte

“During my studies, I also did an internship through ANU at Parliament House in Canberra. While studying, I worked for a Federal Member of Parliament in an electorate office and also worked as a bartender in a popular Adelaide pub.” Rebecca, Bachelor of International Studies (Honours), Policy Adviser, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

“As a mature aged student returning to studying after a 17 year absence from the paid workforce, I considered very carefully the employment options that might become available to me upon graduation.” Susan, Social Work (post-graduate), Graduate Officer, Community Corrections Officer, Department for Correctional Services.

“I went to the Careers Centre in my first year at Uni to check out the direction I was taking, and to learn more about jobs and careers.” Julie, Bachelor of Commerce, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

“I would encourage students currently studying to get involved in extra curricular activities as early in your degree as you can. Not only does this look great on your resume, but you learn to develop people skills and communication skills.” Natalie, Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics, Dietitian, Riverland Community Health Service Inc.

FINALLY
GROW YOUR CAREER HERE. BUILD YOURSELF A BRIGHTER FUTURE.
DON’T JUST LOOK AT THE FUTURE, CREATE IT. CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE.
CALCULATE YOUR NEXT CAREER MOVE. MAKE YOUR MARK. TIME TO LIVE, TIME TO LEARN.

These Graduate recruitment slogans offer an exciting glimpse of the future. Making your future a reality starts now. The transition to uni is the first step. We encourage you to keep your career in focus and to map out your career development activities throughout your degree – this handout is full of ideas to pick and choose from. So make the most of it your time at university, and keep your career goals clearly in sight!