

Step up your employability. Step in to work.

A university degree is a great way to advance your career, whether you're keen to start out in a new field or are looking to nail that awesome promotion, right? Right! While taking on tertiary education, whether it's university or VET, your first priority may be to come out at the end with a qualification, however there are other factors such as industry experience and employer networking that are just as important when it comes to boosting your career opportunities. You should start making moves to maximise your employability while you study.



GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES SURVEYED EMPLOYERS ABOUT WHAT MAKES AN APPLICATION STAND OUT. HERE ARE A FEW OF THEIR RESPONSES.

"Outstanding graduates require a combination of strong academic results along with involvement in extra-curricular activities. They need to be self-starters, thrive on solving problems and have the ability to be learn and be coached. They must also demonstrate career ambition and good communication skills."

"Demonstrated passion and knowledge about the industry they are applying to. Extra activities that align with company values and objectives."

"Inferior graduates lack demonstrated initiative, focus on technical skills without acknowledging importance of people related skills such as team work, leadership and emotional intelligence."



Join student organisations and professional associations

Get involved in uni life on or off campus! Look for networking opportunities. A large number of jobs are not advertised but are filled through networking. Making contacts through these types of organisations can get your name out there if you're looking for work or work experience.



Get work experience early

Employers value experience - all experience. Think about the skills you have learned from your casual and part-time jobs or volunteer experiences - these are transferable skills and can be built into your resume.



Get references from your employers

Be mindful of the need for referees. A good referee report can be the difference between you successfully obtaining a job or not.

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Start reading job ads

Look for interesting positions, for the language used in job ads, for names of companies who advertise the jobs that interest you.



Become known to lecturers and College staff

Be an active participant in class. Academic staff can offer advice and may have industry contacts.



Start working on your resume early

Develop your resume and keep updating it with new skills and jobs so it's ready when you need it. Lead time for some job applications or Graduate Employment Programs can be very short so you'll need to be ready to apply. Use a portfolio approach so you can include examples of your work (if appropriate) or create a LinkedIn profile to include on your resume.



Attend seminars and workshops

Take advantage of all learning opportunities that are offered - you may not get credit for them but they will help you get a job.



Build your personal brand

Discover your brand, build it up and show it. Reflect on your skills, abilities and values and showcase them consistently across all media.



Good results do impress employers

It doesn't matter what you have studied, employers will view your application more favourably if you have good grades. However, employers also look for evidence that demonstrates graduate attributes and "soft skills" including communication, teamwork, time management, problem solving and initiative.

The Careers & Employment team offers career development services to current CDU students and recent graduates.

Contact the Careers and Employment team for advice on all matters relating to gaining employment and building your career.

Improve your chances of securing the career that you want by talking with expert staff and accessing resources that will build your skills and knowledge to give you a competitive edge in the job market.

Contact us | 08 8946 6288 | careers@cdu.edu.au | cdu.edu.au/careers

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