

# the edit

Explore | Decide | Implement | Thrive

October 2017, 6<sup>th</sup> Issue



## How to Break into the Television Industry

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## What Jobs Are Out There?

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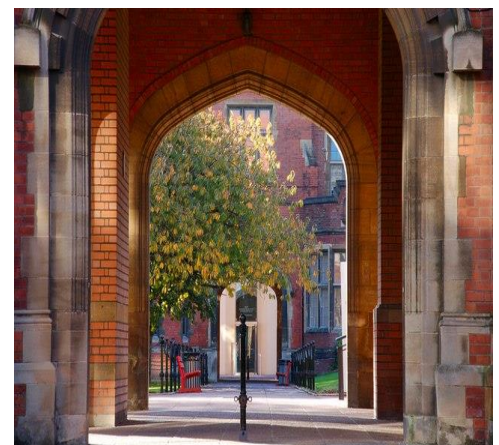


## Lisa Maginnis: An AHSS Success Story

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## Issue 6: Create Your Own Opportunities



@theeditqub

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## Create Your Own Opportunities

Already we are halfway through semester one and you've (hopefully) settled into your new classes. Now that you've got the hang of your timetable you'll be thinking about what to do with your free time. It's no secret that AHSS students have fewer contact hours in University so why not use them to their fullest potential.

This year at *The Edit* our theme is “create”. In this issue, we will show you how you can **create your own opportunities**. Despite what people may say, opportunities will not come and knock on your door, you find them yourself. The best way to do that is through paying attention to all that's relevant going on at the university.

You know those emails you get regularly from **My Future? READ THEM!** They can let you know about any careers fair or internship taking place that will make you stand out from the crowd when it comes to applying for jobs.

Failing to pay attention to your email, we at *The Edit* will alert you of any opportunities we think will be of interest to AHSS students.



To get the most out of university **you must be proactive!** You may sit in lectures where they mention internships or volunteering and think - “That sounds good” – but, you won't benefit from it if you don't apply! **Go out, be proactive and create the opportunities you need now to get to where you want to be in the future.** So, follow our Facebook and Twitter to receive the most up to date information. (SM)

## How-to: Ace those University Events

From the **Creative and Digital Careers Fair (RTS)** to **Queen's Skills for Success Workshops**, there are a lot of important university events on this year and in the future. It is vital that you keep in mind that you could discover your dream job during any of these occasions. Don't worry though if this introduction has you sweating a little under the pressure of getting future employment, because I have collated the top rules that will help you successfully navigate any university event:

1. **Dress Smart-Casual** – Your Instagram-worthy gym outfit won't cut it this time. Remember your dream company may be attending, so first impressions count.

2. **Bring a CV** – You could meet your future employer at any of the Queen's events. This will show that you are motivated and prepared now to start a career after graduation. It's also a wonderful way to remind yourself mid-conversation of all the great things you've achieved so far if you're feeling a bit nervous.



3. **Talk first, freebies second** – Those free pens aren't going to mystically disappear before your very eyes! They are an important currency for students, but **engage with the person** behind the table before you satisfy that urge.

4. **Let go of the 'pack' mentality** – Having friends is great – but they won't get you a job. **Be confident** and go up to a company. Stand on your own because **only you can further your career!**

5. **Research the employers** – This means that instead of being intimidated by the amount of law or STEM companies present in those careers fairs, you'll know who is looking for AHSS students or whose jobs aren't subject specific. (HG)



# Do You Ignore Your *My Future* emails?

## Here's Why You Shouldn't...

I bet you're all wondering how this year's editorial team discovered how they could apply for a place on 'The Edit'. Maybe through Facebook or Twitter? Although social media might seem like the most obvious choice... the answer is no. In fact, the answer **has been under your noses all this time**. Maybe even hidden away inside the deep crevices of your **Queen's inbox**? Are they talking about those emails that I hardly ever open... yes and permitting them to fall into obscurity could be the biggest mistake of your student life. The answer is **'My Future'**.

A lot of students tend to forget about **'My Future'**; a bizarre fact which baffles us here at The Edit. This ingenious student tool boasts a range of features, all of which aim to enhance the skills and qualities of

undergraduates and postgraduates.

For example, it gives students the **opportunity to apply for a variety of Workplace Study Tours, International Jobs (USA and beyond!) and On Campus Jobs** (a feature which I have recently benefited from during registration week at Queen's.)

### "A lot of students tend to forget about My Future"

This feature displays part-time jobs available on the **Queen's campus, which adapt to fit your academic time table** - What could be better?

Through further research, I discovered a hidden feature on **'My Future'** that I was previously unaware of. The **Contact Directory** exhibits a list of employers whom specialise in an extensive list of

fields, such as management and public relations. Thus, my fellow AHSS students, start scribbling down the contact details of these employers! They would prove extremely invaluable when hunting for **work experience, internships and even graduate jobs**.

So, why have you never used (or heard of) this brilliant tool until now? Answer: because you have been ignoring your Queen's emails. Staying alert to your emails is the best way to keep up to date with all the opportunities offered on **'My Future'**. As an individual who has hugely benefitted from **'My Future'** (through gaining a coveted place on *The Edit* and a Student Assistant job on campus) **please heed my advice!** My student life would not be the same without them. Who knows... by using **'My Future'**, next year you could become a member of *The Edit*. (MQL)

## Create your own Career

8th November 2017 14:00 – 16:00 @  
Students Union

AHSS Students this one's for you!

Find out how you can use your creativeness and innovation as skills to create your own career.

Come down to the Students Union and hear from current and past students on how they created their own career. As well as gaining hints and tips on how to generate an idea and where to go to get help with making your passion into a career.

Book online at [myfuture.com](http://myfuture.com)

(LS)



Degree  
Plus

myfuture



## What Jobs Are Out There For Me?

The thought of not getting a job after your degree, of amassing a huge debt for nothing, is a very real fear among AHSS students. The belief that there are no jobs available for us kills our motivation, prevents us from even attempting to find a respectable job. We are bombarded with the apparent ‘fact’ that our career prospects are limited, but this is not truth, but ignorance.

Nothing aggravates an AHSS student more than others automatically presuming that they want to become a teacher after their degree. For many students, the answer to this question is no. The pathway for AHSS students is **not limited to one avenue**. For example, the **civil service** is overflowing with workers from an

For example, the **civil service** is overflowing with workers from an AHSS background, with them being prominent in departments such as **human resources** and **public relations**. Moreover, there are jobs available in **advertising, publishing, journalism, social work, presenting, and translating**.



Whilst volunteering at a mental health organisation, I witnessed many students upon graduating receive a placement at the charity, despite having degrees in English and Sociology. This was because of

their previous volunteering experience, undeterred by the apparent irrelevancy of their course to mental health. **Therefore, your chosen degree will not deny you job opportunities, only your lack of developed skills and work experience will.**

In fact, studying abroad, volunteering or partaking of internships provides you with the skills to make you a desirable candidate for a variety of jobs upon graduation. **Many graduate-level jobs care more about experience, skills and character strength, rather than a specified degree.**

Ignore those who try to belittle your degree or who tell you that you have limited job prospects upon graduation. Don't stay within the boundaries which others impose on you, but **prove just how fragile their assumptions about AHSS students really are.** (CR)

## In Conversation with: Mark Carruthers

Mark Carruthers is something of a household name for anyone who follows Northern Ireland politics. One of QUB's own alumni, graduating with a **degree in Political Science and Irish Politics**, Carruthers is largely known for his firm but fair, no-nonsense attitude when interviewing highfalutin politicians. Now, with the shoe on the other foot, Carruthers sits on the hot seat as I have the opportunity to interview the interviewer.

### How did you first get involved with the BBC?

I was finishing my Masters and working in the Belfast Festival's press office and coming into contact with a lot of journalists. I started submitting interviews for the youth programme

youth programme 'The Bottom Line' on Radio Ulster and writing pieces for various magazines like 'Theatre Ireland' and 'Film Directions'. Eventually people in the BBC's Radio Current Affairs department started taking my phone calls and I got my toe in the door. That was 1989 and I've been there or thereabouts ever since.

### What would you say to those who say there are few employment opportunities and therefore less reason to study AHSS subjects?

Well I wouldn't agree with that at all. We can't all be scientists and computer programmers and, for me, **it's all about people studying what they're passionate about and then**

**finding their niche in the world.** I think the very fact that there's a debate about the value of the humanities and the social sciences in some people's minds is a nonsense – but I don't really think many people actually believe that. (HRG)



For the full interview visit *The Edit's* blog at [blogs.qub.ac.uk/theedit](https://blogs.qub.ac.uk/theedit)



## Lisa Maginnis - an AHSS Success Story

**in English with Politics.** It took a year before she gained a graduate job, despite having experience at the BBC and actively contributing to *The Gown* student newspaper. Her first graduate job was in the **charity sector – a rich field for AHSS graduates.** Lisa did say, however, not to expect jobs to be “**all shiny**” but to go for these opportunities in anyway, even if you feel “**it is below you.**”

When asked for advice for current students, **Lisa’s message was to take every possible opportunity.** For instance, build up your writing and communication skills, maybe using social media to develop these skills further. Internships are a great step in as well, she said, even if it’s unpaid. These opportunities will get “your foot in the door”, helping you develop contacts and build up a wide professional network.

To get these chances, Lisa recommended submitting your CV in everywhere. The job that is for you is like finding “**a needle in a hay stack,**” she commented. Upon being asked for any crucial interview tips, her major point was to **research and research more, making sure that you can answer any question given, as well as asking questions in the interview to show your interest.**

Even though Lisa didn’t know where her career would take her whilst at Queen’s, she has **worked her way up to a public-sector job she loves,** allowing her to always learn new skills. This only goes to show you too can **create your own perfect opportunity.** (PM)



Lisa Maginnis is a **Senior Communications Officer at the Probation Board of Northern Ireland (PBNI)** – a role she has now had for 13 years. Her everyday work revolves around the world of **internal and external communication** - a lot of which involves dealing with pressure from the media. Lisa, however, didn’t just step into graduate employment upon leaving Queen’s with a **degree**

## What to Do on Your First Day of Internship

Internships are invaluable opportunities to gain vital information on your future career. While on an internship, you need to reap all the benefits and that’s where *The Edit* is here to help. We will help you **stand out from the crowd.**

**1. Show what you know:** Employers will be impressed if they see evidence that you have taken time to **research** them. Undertaking research gives you a greater understanding of what day to day work entails and what career advancement opportunities the company offers. **If you don’t know something that basic research would have answered, the employer will notice.**

**2. Be on time:** Arriving on time with a smile on your face shows the employer that you’re excited to be there and that **first impression** can be very important. **Punctuality** will stress that you have a genuine desire to be there, regular lateness suggests the internship is a chore to you.

**3. Ditch the phone:** I know our phones have become like another limb, but internships should be treated like real jobs. **Professionalism is key!** Keep busy because there will always be something to do and learn, being on your phone constantly comes across as work shy. Don’t ruin your internship just because the group chat was ‘lit’.

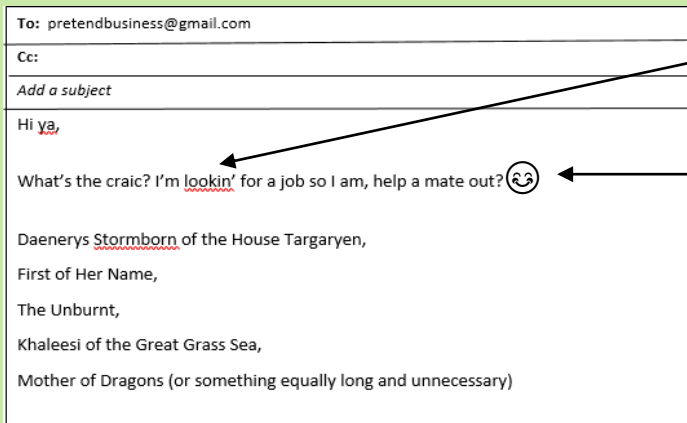
**4. Use initiative:** The people you shadow will be experts in their fields so **ask as many questions as you can!** Take advice on board and act on it to prove you can work on your own initiative. Don’t be afraid to **ask for feedback** because it displays eagerness to learn from your mistakes. Employers had to work from the bottom to the top, so they know exactly what you’re going through. (MMK)





# The Do's and Don'ts of Writing a Professional Email

**You don't need to include any unnecessary information. Emails should be concise and clear.**



**Watch your spelling. Ensure you proofread your email before you hit send.**

**AVOID emojis!**

**Be polite! Just because emailing can sometimes be a concise form of messaging, it still has an impact on the impression a recipient will form of you.**

**Include a title so your email will be understood quickly and will stand out.**



**General Tips:**

- If you're writing longer emails, leave a greater period to proofread them- you can save drafts of emails if you need longer to write them
- If you're sending an attachment, remember to attach it! (Happens to the best of us)

(NK)

## Key Dates

**Degree Plus Workshop**

November to December 2017

Get an insight into Degree Plus and gain ideas on how you can improve your employability and skills.

Many activities you participate in, whether you serve as a Course Rep or have a part-time job or are engaged in voluntary work - may be allowing you to acquire important employability skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication and commercial awareness. The Degree Plus award allows these skills and experiences to be formally recognised.

Book online at [myfuture.com](http://myfuture.com)



**USA Summer Camp Presentation**

6<sup>th</sup> November 18:00-19:00 @ SGC HUB Presentation Area

**“A once in a lifetime experience, so good you'll do it twice”**

USA Summer Camp is a cultural exchange provider offering summer work experiences at over 500 summer camps in America. Spend 9 – 10 weeks leading or assisting with American camper's sports, hobbies and skills and get paid for it! Then top your summer off with an amazing 30 days travel time to see America. (LS)

# Interview with Georgia Parkinson - Chairperson of RTS Futures NI

With one of NI Screen's top objectives being to make 'Northern Ireland the strongest screen industry outside of London... within 10 years', it's no wonder NI's television Industry is one of their fastest growing trades. Programmes like *Line of Duty*, and *Game of Thrones* have been continually produced here in NI. If television production, or any form of media has ever struck you as a possible career then RTS Futures NI is the perfect gateway for you!

As a well-respected charity, RTS Futures NI aims to help young people get the information they need to make their way into employment in the television industry. Chairperson of RTS Futures NI is Georgia Parkinson, former student at QUB and currently works with Entertainment Company Stelify Media. Georgia has kindly agreed to share her insight on breaking into the media industry.

## What is RTS Futures NI?

The RTS is an educational charity that celebrates work in television and all its related fields. They host award ceremonies and masterclass sessions to bring together industry leaders and people who are just starting out.

RTS Futures NI is a special branch of the charity whose aim is to help graduates and those in the initial stages of their career to progress in different areas of television. We're part of the junior committee that help to organise and coordinate events and get as many people in the know about TV as possible! Membership is free for students, so sign up!

## How has RTS Futures NI helped you... how can it help other young people?

RTS Futures NI has helped myself immensely with a range of things, from getting my foot in the door to the television industry and meeting like-minded young people. I've been working for a few years now, but RTS put me in touch with the right people who helped me to land one of my first paid jobs in television.



Through organizing events, such as panel discussions with different industry professionals, I have met a range of people working within the industry, particularly here in NI. From these contacts, I have been able to gain knowledge about different elements of the industry. This goes for everyone on the committee and everyone who comes along to our events. Once you put yourself out there and chat to people working within the industry, it's amazing how willing people are to help you get suitable work experience. Through meeting like-minded young people, it offers you the opportunity to come together and make your own content, such as a short film. The more you get involved, the more you get out of it.

## Is there anything in the pipe line for people to get involved in?

As part of Belfast's BBC Digital Cities Week, we have our **RTS Futures Careers Day coming up on Tuesday 14th November**. It's a jam-packed day, with workshops and panel discussions led by top industry professionals. Anyone wanting to learn more about the industry can come along to as many of our free workshops as possible and learn about the industry from how to get involved in different companies and what they do. As well as this, we have exciting plans for the rest of the year which will take shape soon, so keep your eyes peeled and follow us on social media!

*"Once you put yourself out there and chat to people working within the industry, it's amazing how willing people are to help you get real work experience."*

(EHW)

## CAREERS EVENTS

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November  
(Whitla Hall and SGC)**

**BBC Make It- Social Media Surgery  
@ 9:30- 12:30**

**Get into Gaming – Advice from  
the Experts @ 10:30- 12:30**

**Creative Clinic- CV & Interview  
Workshop with BBC NI Head of  
Talent @ 13:00-15:00**

**Lightening Round with Industry  
Professionals @ 15:30- 17:00**

**The BIG Event – Panel with  
Industry Experts @ 18:00- 20:00**



# DEVELOPMENT WEEKS

14 May – 1 June 2018



**Provides students with three weeks space within the academic year to engage in activities which:**



- **INSPIRE** new learning
- **INNOVATE** across disciplines
- **EXPLORE** personal and professional development
- Recognise talent through Degree Plus accreditation

### What next?

- Save the dates! 14 May – 1 June 2018
- Student led activities: what could you deliver to peers? (may be eligible for competitive funding)
- What events would you want delivered?

For more information visit [go.qub.ac.uk/developmentweeks](http://go.qub.ac.uk/developmentweeks)  
[www.qub.ac.uk/degreeplus](http://www.qub.ac.uk/degreeplus)



# THE EDITORS

Issue 6 of The Edit has been edited by 3<sup>rd</sup> year Film Studies and 2<sup>nd</sup> year English students Michael Mark Jordan, Molly Quinn-Leitch and Sarah Murray.

Let's get to know more about them!

**What is your best advice for someone who wants to become more employable?**

*Molly:* First of all, please read your emails! My Future contains a range of opportunities and plenty of advice that will help you to further your future career. Secondly, attend as many careers fairs as you possibly can. You will gain valuable insights into the world of work and who knows... you may just meet your future employer!

*Michael:* My advice would be to simply get out there and do as many things as you can and gain as much experience as possible. Be passionate about what you want to do and if you're like many and are still unsure what that is, then be passionate about finding it out!

**What aspect of your AHSS degree do you think makes you most interesting to employers?**

*Sarah:* I think the most appealing aspect of doing an English degree is the variety of skills you gain. Through my degree I have been able to hone in on my communication skills which enables me to thrive in a variety of workplaces.

### CONTRIBUTORS

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Chloe Ross          | Leah Scott         |
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Many thanks to Leah Scott for the design of Issue 6

