

the edit

Explore | Decide | Implement | Thrive

January 2018, 7th Issue

Social Media Detox

Pg 6



International Students Have Their Say

Pg 7



Issue 7: New Year, New You



BBC Creative Clinic

Pg 5



Google Was On Campus

Pg 4



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Welcome back!

Welcome to 2018! It's that time of year again when we take a step back, think back on the year past and we all think up our New Year's resolutions. "I am going to go to the gym", "I'll travel more" or the infamous "New Year, New me" are some of the phrases everyone will be sick of hearing by the second week in January. However, why not apply this philosophy to aspects of your University life as well as your personal life? It's the start of Semester two and we are all getting that one step closer to our degree so how can we prepare for the scary "adult" world that we face after graduating.

Are you not sure what career you want to get into? Do you want to see if you are on the right track to get you to your desired career? To answer these questions and more book a 'Career Consultation' in the Student Guidance Centre (**See page 3**).

It is important to try and set yourself apart from other graduates, so why not have some fun whilst also building a unique and interesting CV that will enhance your employment opportunities. Join one of the 200+ clubs and societies in the Students Union, take up a volunteering role or even apply for international study abroad! Erasmus offers students the opportunity to meet new people, explore different parts of the world and (as an extra bonus) really impress future employers! For more information, go to go.qub.ac.uk/goglobal

However, just like that New Year's diet, you aren't going to reap the benefits of this planned "New You" if you don't act! So, start off the New Year by putting more effort into all aspects of University life because the more you put in now the better off you'll be when you finally get that diploma. (SM)



New Year, New You

New Year, New You. Every year this phrase is thrown around as casually and as commonly as a cold. But like a cold, the repercussions and effects of this are more hard-hitting, time consuming and down-right annoying than the name gives credit for. As soon as the clock strikes 12 signifying our entrance into a new year, do we really have to change who we are, are we really so bad that we need to set aside a certain time of year to examine our flaws? I don't think so. Don't get me wrong, change can be good, it's not always easy, but it can be good. However, this year, let's not decide to change ourselves, but change our attitudes towards ourselves. It's a time to be kinder, be more positive and a time to believe in our potential. We all have good points, individual skills and unique selling points that others would give their right arm to have, but sometimes we just don't see these ourselves. It's 2018; let's change ourselves into a better person, not a different one.

(EHW)

From Belfast to Washington: An Interview with Niall Stanage

Niall Stanage, an Oxford graduate from Belfast is the White House Columnist for 'The Hill', an American political newspaper, shares his AHSS success story.

Why did you choose to study English and how has it benefited your career?

Honestly, I chose it because it was my favourite subject at school. I'm glad I did, as I think I would have struggled with the intensity of Oxford if I had been doing a subject that I didn't love.

I would like to think — rightly or wrongly — that it has given me an appreciation for some kind of style and élan in writing. One has to be careful with these statements -- you don't want to make it seem as if you think your newspaper column is comparable with Hemingway,

or whomever. But an appreciation of good prose, good narrative structure and pacing is self-evidently important in any kind of writing, I think.



Do you believe that arts and humanities degrees are desirable in the job market with the increasing prominence of STEM degrees?

Yes, but I think their value lies more in the broader skills and habits they teach, rather than in the specific knowledge one accrues. Unsurprisingly, for example, the compulsory Anglo-Saxon I did as part of my English degree at Oxford has never been called upon since then. But arts and humanities degrees should, and generally do, teach critical thinking, analytical rigour and the importance of expressing oneself clearly. I would contend that those traits are actually becoming more important, not less so.

Read the rest of this interview with Niall Stanage on our Blog! (MM)



How to: Career Consultations

Firstly - what is a Career Consultation?

A 30 minute appointment with a member of the Careers staff in the Student Guidance Centre (SGC). They are available to both undergraduates and postgraduates (alumni can even utilize this service up to 2 years after graduating from Queen's!). Consultations are for any career-related queries you may have, everything from CV checks to placements. Even if it's just for a general chat about your course, where it could lead you - they can identify information you need by listening to and working with you.

Booking - Log onto MyFuture (if you're unsure about My Future, there's an article on it in Issue 5). Down the left-hand side, expand 'Appointments' from the menu and select 'Book an Appointment'. Find a time and date that suits you and chose a

reason for your appointment from the drop-down menu - for example, 'Change Course' or 'Postgraduate Study Abroad'. You'll receive a confirmation email once your appointment is booked and a reminder email closer to the time.

Preparation - If you've selected a CV check, make sure to bring a printed copy of your CV with you, to make life easier for everyone. Meetings take place in Rooms 5-8 on the First floor of the SGC.

How it goes down - You'll be called in by a Careers Consultant. They will introduce themselves and give you an overview of how these consultations work. Afterwards, it is your opportunity to ask questions. There are also hard copy resources that you're welcome to take away. At the end of each session, the aim is for the consultant and student to

come to an agreement of what the next step(s) should be. Something the student can work on, even if they haven't immediately solved all problems. Through My Future you can access a record of these sessions, to keep track of the steps to take. This is how the service combats anxiety, stress and uncertainty surrounding careers. (NK)





Google Was On Campus

Here at *The Edit*, we wanted to give you a low-down of the Digital Cities events that took place at the start of November, just in case you didn't make it. This article will focus on the '**Google on Campus**' Presentation, with the hope that some of the following information might help you get a job there! QUB International Business Studies with French graduate **Orlaith Downey** was giving insider tips on how to ace the recruitment process and insights into daily life at Google.

The benefits of working at Google Dublin seem incredible, with the building sporting two gyms, a pool, meditation rooms, nap pods, free breakfast, lunch and dinner and their very own health hub!

Getting a job at Google may seem like mission impossible, however, Orlaith is testament that this is actually achievable. Orlaith's job title is **Associate Account Strategist**, and although that might sound like a scary title for AHSS students, her job **isn't degree specific**. Rather, diversity is key to Google in both cultural background and subject choice at university. Google Dublin is the headquarters for Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, making it an international workplace with a diverse team and a multitude of cultures. This makes it a great opportunity for those who can speak another language!

You'll be up against a lot of competition, so if you want a job at Google you will need to show the **motivation** necessary to be an asset to the company. Orlaith recommends a "different version of your CV that you customise for each role you apply to – incorporate the job description's language into your application". When you apply for a job at Google your application will go through a CV check; if you pass this stage you will have 2-3 phone 'hangout' interviews where your knowledge of the role you're applying for will be tested as well as your leadership skills and 'Googleness'. Having **good communication skills** will be essential for you to navigate this stage of the application process. If you are truly interested in the job you will have questions at the end of your interview – it is a red flag if you don't!

Even if you are 3rd year or a Masters student, don't think you can only apply for the graduate schemes – the internships they offer are available for everyone. If you see a role you love, find someone doing it on LinkedIn and give them a message – it's always good to know someone in the company.

If you're thinking about applying for a job with Google, go onto g.co/studentsEMEA and put in an alert for English speaking roles within the company – may the odds be ever in your favour! (HG)



How to Procrastinate Effectively

I know I am my own worst enemy when it comes to using social media effectively. We all know the horror felt after going onto YouTube to watch one video only to emerge several hours later with an in-depth knowledge of conspiracy theories claiming that cows flew to the moon in 1984.

How we spend our free time now can affect how we will spend our careers. However, I am not suggesting that we all unsubscribe from our guilty pleasure YouTube accounts as there are some accounts that can actually fuel creativity and allow you to learn some life skills.



YouTube as a market has really taken off in the past few years. Suddenly faced with an abundance of middle-of-the-road quality but attractive videos, YouTube makes it difficult for us to tear ourselves away from mindless content.

However, much like looking for needles in haystacks, there are some YouTube accounts which we can use for our advantage. Some examples are:

Pop culture detective – (video essay film analysis)

Stuff you should know

Thug notes

The financial diet

School of Life

Omeleto

CrashCourse

Vox and Ted-Ed

KarstenRunquist- (video essays on film analysis)

Videos on these accounts are **short and easy to watch** but also provide useful information that can be used in everyday life or as revision for class. More importantly, they allow you to spend those hours in the library avoiding essays doing something more productive than bingeing all of Stranger Things 2.

(HRG)



Back in November, it was time for Belfast to shine with **BBC Digital Cities Week** – an opportunity for those in, and looking to get into; Belfast's creative and digital sector. You may remember our exclusive interview with the RTS Futures NI Chairperson, **Georgia Parkinson** in our last issue. She helped organise one of the fantastic events that we're featuring in this issue – the **Creative Clinic: a CV & Interview Workshop** with Helen Thompson and Nicola McConvil, Talent Managers at BBC Northern Ireland. A great piece of advice from Helen and Nicola was getting on the *BBC Careers*

BBC Digital Cities: Creative Clinic

Hub – an online portal listing all the roles in the BBC and all the work experience placements the BBC offers across the UK and Northern Ireland (they're great, I've been on one myself!) Go have a look and who knows, you might find yourself working at the BBC!

In case you couldn't be there then don't worry, we were! Here are some quotes from the clinic giving you some **top advice** to make your CV the best it can be! (PM)



"Don't be modest; you are the best thing since sliced bread, show that!"

"Your CV needs to have something that grabs them. If you haven't sold yourself on your CV, you may as well not have it"

"Don't use 'we' as those reading your CV don't know if YOU actually did anything. Always use 'I'"

"Amend your CV to the job you're applying for. Look at the unique job and the unique skills they're asking for"



Start 2018 with a Social Media Detox!

As we enter 2018, we start to put the partying of the festive season behind us- **a fresh start**. However, some of our posts of celebration during this period could have **unknown implications on our future careers**. Did you tweet whilst drunk? Tagged in an overly candid photo? Yes, these actions can create a consequential dent in your professionalism. Nevertheless, *The Edit* is here to help, with career-minded tips that will help detox your social media accounts!

Delete undesirable photos: If there are photos on your social media accounts

that may present you in a negative light(I am guilty of this...), delete them! Presentation is key to potential employers.

Consider creating personal/professional accounts: Potential employers could be repelled by your private opinions. Thence, creating a separate, career driven account will help avoid mixing business with political and individual statements (a certain American President doesn't seem to follow this rule...).

Create a LinkedIn account: We at The Edit love LinkedIn, as it allows us to connect with a variety of employers and businesses. You can create your own professional profile, biography and can even attach your CV. This enables potential employers to appreciate all your tailored skills and qualities. New Year, new job perhaps?

Check grammar and spelling: If your obligatory New Year post looked something like this 'happy new Year 2 every1', you may want to question its existence. Accurate grammar and spelling sets a good example to potential employers!

Indeed, some interviewers will check your social media history before or after an interview, so be prepared! Follow these tips and I guarantee your social media presence will shine of professionalism, as opposed to deep regret.

(MQL)



A Career in Academia

Have you ever thought about a career focused on working with students? For instance, if you aspire to be a lecturer your goal may seem out of reach but as the famous saying goes 'It will all be worth it in the end!'

What do you need? Preferably a Masters and a PhD, but this isn't always the case. To achieve these qualifications, you need more than a mere liking for your subject. You must have a **commitment, passion and connection** to your chosen field of work. However, these qualifications do not mean that you are immediately qualified to take on the role of a lecturer.

To do this you need to **gain relevant work experience**. This can take the form of teaching undergraduate classes- all of us have likely had a PhD student for a tutor during our studies after all.

Combined with being a tutor, work experience can also take the form of independent research directly related to your chosen field.

It must be remembered that being a lecturer is **not limited** to merely giving out lectures to students. It also involves acting as their tutors, marking innumerable assignments and answering diverse queries, all alongside maintaining an active approach to your own personal research.

Whilst it may seem that being a lecturer is a lot of hard work and responsibility (which it is), you get to study the subject you love for a job.

(CR)

Dragons' Den



An opportunity provided by Enterprise SU to entrepreneurial students who would like to win funding for their business idea. The competition, sponsored by Tughans Solicitors and Cavanagh Kelly Accountants, provides students with the opportunity to pitch to a panel of judges, and attend a number of workshops. You could win £10,000 in this competition, and recognition of your idea to help catapult it into start up success through networks and links to business leaders.

For more information please email enterprisesu@qub.ac.uk



Talking to International Students



Students at Queens' come from a variety of different countries and backgrounds, as well as a range of gender, ages and ethnicities. There are many students who have travelled very far to attend QUB. Whether this is a 6 month exchange with Erasmus or moving to Northern Ireland to complete their degree and begin their career; I got talking to three international students about their experiences of University and the path they may follow once they graduate.

What do you like the most about living abroad?

H: My name is **Hailey Soo** and I am from Hong Kong. I am currently studying Criminology Level 2 at Queen's. I am *so happy* I chose Queen's University Belfast for my degree. People here are *so nice* and easy to get along with. My course mates and tutor have given me loads of support whilst living and studying here. I would say that the best thing about living in Belfast is *knowing nice people*.

Do you think studying abroad makes you more desirable to employers?

C: Hi! My name is **Carina Schöps** and I am from Munich, Germany. At Queens I study Sociology with a minor in Law. If you study abroad, I think employers are more likely to see you as an *open minded person* that is flexible and willing to step out of your comfort zone. This is because as an international student I have had to adapt to a new environment as well as step out of my comfort zone.

HB: I'm **Heather Burton** and I am a student from Queens who is taking a year out to study Law with Politics at the University for Applied Sciences in Rotterdam, Holland.

I think it does. I am now able to converse proficiently with mixed cultures and be *more confident* as a person in general. This is because I have had to force myself into situations where I wouldn't necessarily put myself in if I were at home. I have a higher ability now to *adapt to change*, more independence, stronger listening and observing skills and a lot more responsibility. These are all qualities that future employers will be looking out for.

Are you hoping to pursue a career in Northern Ireland or in your home country? If so, why.

H: I am not sure. I mean Northern Ireland is a really nice place to be and live, but my family are based in Hong Kong. For Criminology, I would say I might get *more opportunity* here in UK but not as much in Hong Kong. I would say working in Belfast or Northern Ireland for 1 or 2 years and see how it goes.

HB: With studying a law degree under the English/British Law it would be difficult to pursue a career in what I really want in Rotterdam, so back home at the minute. Although, it has definitely opened my mind in what I want to do now after my Bachelors is finished.

Do you think Queens University provides enough services and support for international students?

C: Yes, the Queen's University is an exemplary university in terms of providing services and support.

H: The International Student Service in the **Student Guidance Centre** has personally helped me a lot since I first came to Queens. If you are an international student I would really recommend using this service as it made me feel very *welcome and supported* when I arrived in Belfast from Hong Kong. There is also a number of different International Societies for students to join which helps you get to know more people from home!

Read more about **Carina, Hailey** and **Heather's** experiences of being an International Student on our blog! (LS)



Development Weeks 14th May-1st June

Development weeks offer you a great opportunity for you to learn new skills and improve your employability prospects. Over the three weeks you can experience various events across different degree pathways as well as your own to broaden your personal and professional skill set. The events on offer fall into four main categories:

- Global
- Citizenship
- Work Experience
- Professional and Career Development

Development weeks will cater for a wide range of interests and can contribute towards Degree Plus accreditation that is if you are attending event or have created one yourself.

This year, a new Student Led Activity Fund has been introduced with the motive of encouraging students, in groups, to lead activities during Development Weeks. If you are planning to create an event there is a competitive process for funding. £20K funding is available overall! If you are planning to create an event then you can apply for a maximum of £750 for your group to deliver your event. Organizing and leading an event would be greatly beneficial for your self-confidence and give you the skill of inspiring your peers to learn new things and get their Degree Plus.

The application process starts on 8th January and closes on 2nd March. Also, over 50 two weeks internships will be on offer during development weeks, it really is a career advancement opportunity that you can't afford to miss.



For more information on development weeks and to download an activity proposal form visit the website: go.qub.ac.uk/developmentweeks

What advice do you have for students who want to make more of their university experience in the New Year?

Mark: Keep a couple of steps ahead of your studies so you don't get bogged down by leaving deadlines too late. Being more organized gives you more time to get involved with clubs and societies as well as employer events. We'll be here to let you know when they all are.

How important do you think it is for students to be involved in extra-curricular activities beyond their degree?

Mark: A degree alone isn't enough to impress employers and they'll really like it if you've attended events relating to, and got professional insight into your future career.

What motivated you to choose your degree?

Leah: Because it is the one subject I am good at! I am passionate about Sociology; it makes you think outside the box and challenge taken for granted assumptions about society. The skills I have picked up through studying Sociology are definitely transferable into any career I end up pursuing.

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THE EDITORS

Issue 7 of *The Edit* has been edited by 2nd year History and Politics student Mark McKillen and 2nd year Sociology student Leah Scott.

Let's get to know more about them!