

the edit

Explore | Decide | Implement | Thrive

February 2018, 8th Issue

A Guide to Workplace Fashion

Pg 7



Postgraduate Study – Is It for You?

Pg 8



Issue 8: Employ Yourself



Build an AHSS Network

Pg 4



Disney Producer Interview

Pg 4



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WELCOME BACK

Another issue of *The Edit* is published, and it's the final issue of this academic year! Doesn't time just fly when you're having fun?

Whatever your aims for this year are, whether that be a year to take up new hobbies, work at your career or, even widen your music taste, this Issue of *The Edit* is for you, wonderful, employable Y O U! In Issue 8, we want to help you get a handle on the skills already at your disposal and build your confidence in order to enhance your employability.

Most of all, we want you to know that you shouldn't have to settle for a career. You chose your degree for a reason, and it's up to you to take the opportunities offered to reach your goals. Let's remember what inspired us to originally chose our path, was it money or was it love for our subject?

All ships rise in high tides, and after all, we're AHSS students, we gotta stick together! (EHW)

UTILISE YOUR SUMMER

Summer means being free from university stress, and having three-months worth of time to fill. Plans are made, goals are set and there seems so much time to complete them.

Amidst the excitement of home, a month goes by and you think, "there's plenty of time." You can sign up for volunteering, apply to write for the local newsletter and look for a part-time job. However, time itself doesn't stop. Often with university over, it can be difficult to motivate yourself to do anything other than stay in bed until the hours of the afternoon, so before you know it, summer's passed and some of our goals seem to have been missed off the check list.

Summer is definitely a time for relaxation and enjoyment, especially for students. However, as with all things in life, a useful balance between work and play can work in your favour. This balance is ultimately fulfilling in terms of both your career and your personal life, because being unsatisfied with your summer is no fun for anyone.

(CR)

(MQL)

The new academic year structure paves the way for Development Weeks but also brings an extended Summer holiday period for us AHSS students, so why not make the most of it:

- Start a blog: a blog is a great way of documenting your tailored opinions and experiences. Whether it is professionally aimed or more personally pitched, employers will admire the dedication and linguistic skill on display.
- Garner work experience: work experience is guaranteed to unlock the necessary qualities required on your future career path. For example, the BBC work experience programme provides a valuable insight of what it's like working at the BBC (applications open on 15th February 2018).
- Learn/tutor a language: learning a new language would prove extremely fruitful in terms of increasing your network and desirability to employers. A second language opens a wide variety of opportunities across the globe. Also, there are numerous language camp places available, from Italy to China! As you introduce others to a new language, you will establish skills and memories that could last a life time.

BY HANNAH GIBSON

DIRECTOR OF SUFFRAGETTE

IN CONVERSATION WITH SARAH GAVRON

The name Sarah Gavron, upon first utterance, may not conjure up any sort of recognition into one's mind but her most recent film *Suffragette* (2015) starring Meryl Streep, Carey Mulligan, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne-Marie Duff, definitely will. This film, the first ever to film in the British House of Parliament, was something of a flash light that struck up recognition that there are, in fact, very few films about what are deemed 'women's stories' or indeed any about the early 20th century movement for women's suffrage. Gavron directed this film. As a graduate of University of York, she received her BA in English in 1992 and then went on to study an MA in film at Heriot-Watt in Edinburgh. An AHSS woman through and through, she proves that there is no limit to the level that these subjects can get you to.

- 1) After doing an English degree in York; what made you decided to do your MA in film studies?

I had been interested in film for some years. I hadn't made any films except for some little super 8 experiments. At first, I thought I wanted to do only documentary. The MA was a great way of discovering more about what interested me. I made a documentary short and then tried my hand at fiction and realised I loved it.

- 2) Having started your career focussing on documentary filming, did you find the transition into feature film particularly difficult?

*I did have to learn some very different skills - working with actors was a key one. I learnt a lot through the MA and then by going to the National Film School for 3 years where I specialised in fiction direction. There is of course some cross over between the forms and I am interested in making films that draw on my documentary background. While making *suffragette*, I did a huge amount of research, as I would have done making a documentary.*

- 3) Following the success of *Suffragette*, have you found it more pressuring to take on new projects as there is now some expectation for you to succeed, or have you found it motivating/to give way to new opportunities?

Suffragette did provide some new opportunities. But I am guided by what I am interested in more than anything else. I don't feel I can make films about subjects that I don't feel connected to in some way as I just wouldn't do them justice.

(HRG)

Enterprise SU

Develop the enterprise skills you need to start your own business or secure your dream job. You can book a business one-to-one by emailing enterprisesu@qub.ac.uk

REMEMBER

Keep checking MyFuture for the latest opportunities!
Good Luck!

City Scholarship Programme, Workplace Study Tour & Internship

This Programme offers first year students of any degree discipline the opportunity to undertake 1-week work-shadowing placements in law firms in the UK and Ireland.

BUILDING AN AHSS NETWORK

Networking is becoming increasingly important for AHSS students. Many careers don't have traditional application processes and contacts are needed in order to get a job. LinkedIn is brilliant for connecting with professionals and Twitter also allows you to display your personality and excitement for your field to potential employers. Employers are just like us, they follow people who they look forward to seeing on their timeline, rather than people who are too corporate and don't express themselves. Social media has made potential employers and contacts far more accessible and you can use it to your advantage so what you know can determine who you know!

Networking has been vital to *The Edit* in organising interviews with successful AHSS graduates and it can enhance your career prospects too. Follow lots of people in your field so you have a wide range of people to connect with. Messaging someone shortly after they have posted is effective as it means they are online and are more likely to see your message. I used this method to secure interviews with Arron Armstrong (Issue 5) and Niall Stanage (Issue 7) and you can use it to build your network too.

Take the opportunity to comment on industry leader's posts to show your knowledge and make them notice you. Take a chance and engage with as many potential employers as you can – you never know, you could make a contact to lead you to an internship and future job.

Also, networking doesn't just have to be over social media, *Digital Cities* (Issue 7) showed that there can be opportunities to meet professionals face to face and demonstrate your enthusiasm. Keep a look out for events on MyFuture relating to your career so potential employers can see your personality in the flesh, as well as on social media. (MM)

DISNEY'S RAYMOND LAU

IN INTERVIEW

Raymond Lau is a Series Producer at *Zodiak Kids* who have produced children's programmes for Disney and CBBC. After working freelance, he then applied for the BBC Network Trainee Producer scheme in entertainment, and was selected as one of the 6 trainees out of 2000 applicants. Since then, he's worked his way up to the top, brandishing a career with no signs of stopping. Following his keynote speech at the RTS Futures Panel, we caught up with him to get up some advice for those looking to go into the media sector. Here's a snippet of our time with Ray:

What would you recommend for university students to do, outside of their degree work?

I think it is so vital for students regardless of their actual degree or University or college to do as much as possible themselves. We live in a digital age where hardware and software is so readily available and user friendly. No matter what you might be into, remember that content is key. Telling a story on a phone, iPad, computer, TV or cinema screen is why we are in this industry. I would advise those who wish to edit, to find things to edit; those who wish to operate camera go find something to shoot; those who want to direct, go and direct something. Learn as much as you can while you can and have the freedom and time to do it. (PM)

CONTINUED ON [blog: blogs.qub.ac.uk/theedit](http://blogs.qub.ac.uk/theedit)



DEVELOPMENT WEEKS 2018

14 MAY – 1 JUNE

What are development weeks?

Roisin: Development weeks is a new initiative to find time and space in the academic year for students to develop their personal career and professional skills, as well as opening up opportunities to new experiences.

Why should students attend development weeks?

Karen: we think that students shouldn't run off campus after the exams, they should stay around and treat themselves to a little bit of interactive creating and engage in building themselves a community here at Queens University. It allows students time to think about their academic career and what they are going to do next- as these are daunting thoughts for any student at any stage or their academic career. (LS)



CATCH THE REST
OF THE INTERVIEW
ON OUR BLOG AND
SOCIAL MEDIA

BE YOUR OWN SUCCESS

Creativity is one of the most valuable qualities AHSS students have, for use in degrees and the job market. To figure out how to create your own career, listen to what local success stories have to say.

I spoke to musician Lauren Johnson, a second year QUB English student, who is part of the hugely successful band *Brand New Friend* who you can find on Spotify.

Tell us about *Brand New Friend*.

"The band started around two years ago, when my brother Taylor started posting acoustic demos of his songs online. He managed to persuade me to join him on recordings and *Brand New Friend* was born! I've been singing from a young age, surrounded by music at home, so it was a very natural process. We eventually met Aaron Milligan, our bassist, and Luke Harris, our drummer, through the music scene, who had been in bands together since they were 13. Through extensive practising and gigging throughout Belfast, Dublin and further afield, we worked to grow our profile.

It's been a really rewarding experience and it's great to see our hard work materialise when we get to see our name on a poster for a gig or festival!

Throughout Summer 2016 we played all of the major festivals in Ireland, from **Electric Picnic** to **Stendhal Festival**. We were also lucky enough to be selected for the Introducing Stage at **BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend** - my highlight of our career so far! As for 2018, we will be releasing our **debut album** through Xtra Mile Recordings in April and we have **two Belfast headline shows** in the pipeline."

What advice would you give to anyone on breaking into the industry?

"I would say to practice and write as much as you can, because that is the foundation. Without a good live set and a body of work, the rest can't happen! Seek out as many opportunities as you can in the early stages, reach out to promoters, attend gigs and get to know other bands. There's also lots of great resources in Belfast for budding musicians, such as the Help Musicians NI team based in the Oh Yeah Centre."

For more local success stories, check out our blog. (NK)

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW VALUABLE ELLE WOODS CAN BE

USEFUL ATTITUDES TO HAVE TOWARDS YOUR CAREER

When I was younger I was obsessed with those fluffy-tipped pens, so when I watched *Legally Blonde* for the first time and saw that Elle Woods also used these pens, I decided she would be my role model for life. In the time since then, I've had to face the realities of managing an education and kick-starting a career so my list of role-models has increased to perhaps a wider, more serious selection. Goodbye fluffy pens, light-up trainers and scobie strings – I've grown up and growing up means becoming serious.

But why should it? Upon being told she's not serious enough, Elle Woods changed her life, and although fictional, it's a pretty inspiring thing to do and something we can all learn from. In this article, I'm going to show you just how valuable Elle Woods can be, and what we can learn from her when she took her career seriously:

1. Elle Woods Isn't Afraid of a Challenge

The biggest obstacles lead to the biggest victories so a challenge isn't something to be afraid of – for example Elle gets higher than she needs to on the LSATs and gets into Harvard, what like it's hard?

2. She Realises that Supporting Others Matters

Arguably, the most important attitude to have towards your career is that you have the ability to work with others. Teamwork makes the dream work – from making sure her friends and those in her team are happy, having respect for those around her and generally making herself indispensable: Elle was sure to reach success.

3. She Stands by her Ambitions

Despite constantly hearing 'no,' Elle Woods perseveres, and perseverance is key to job-hunting. Elle's career advisor literally face-palms upon hearing that this blonde girl wants to go to Harvard and one, "Rude," but two, Elle isn't deterred and proves them wrong (which, side note: is one of the best feelings in the world). A little confidence can go a long way, so stick by your beliefs.

A career is a funny thing; it's something that's going to be with you hopefully for the majority of your life. It grows and evolves as you do, and at the end of the day, it is a key building block to who you are. Priorities will change, but your career will always be there in some respect and it's worth taking seriously. Seriously enough to know that you're in it for the long-term, and staying true to what inspires you, your goals and yourself is the most serious thing you can do.

(EHW)

FOLLOW US ON THE OL' SOCIAL MEDIA, EH?

[@THEEDITQUB](https://www.instagram.com/theeditqub)

A GUIDE TO WORK PLACE FASHION – INTERNSHIPS



Congratulations! You've got your internship; the hard part is all done. Next thing to do is make the best impression you can. Unfortunately for some, that does mean incorporating a certain degree of professionalism into what you wear. The last thing you want to be worrying about before your first day is if your outfit is too casual or too dressy for that vague "smart casual" dress code.



V S



Footwear is an age old conundrum, spanning right back to the dark ages (probably). Footwear for outdoor work placements such as on film sets or on-location journalism require a comfortable, hardwearing pair of shoes. Whereas office attire requires you to be tidy and presentable.

The most important thing to consider is where it is you will actually be working. As an AHSS student, you may not always be stuck at a desk from 9-5 for your internship so you must also be practical. If you know you'll be working outside on a film set or acting as a runner at a news station make sure you are wearing appropriate clothing such as a warm coat or sensible shoes. Trust me you won't care about fashion if your feet are sore!



V S



Much like footwear, what bag to bring your trusted notepad and pen in can also be a struggle. If outdoors, a backpack will often not go amiss. Or if in an office environment such as an advertising firm, a sensible, professional looking bag is perfect!

Each workplace is slightly different so don't be afraid to take note of what others wear or even email in advance to see if they have a "casual Fridays" dress code etc. However, for your first day best to keep it safe. So, if you would wear it on a night out or when you're slouching around the house, best to stay clear of it for your first day. The best rule is if you don't know whether you could get away with it, don't wear it! Stick to a nice shirt, nice trousers or a skirt. Most importantly, wear something that makes you feel comfortable and confident.

(SM)



THE BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS OF POST-GRADUATE STUDY

Semester two is nearly over, and it might be leaving a sour taste in the mouths of many AHSS final years. I find myself in a constant debate over what the best plan for my future would be: postgraduate study or to head straight into the workplace.

- Post-grad study (thankfully) puts off the scary 'real' world for another few years, and the hardest decision you'll likely have to make is where to eat on Botanic Avenue.
- You get to study your field in more depth. These extra years can really enhance your CV and can give you more time to figure out your next career move.
- It could potentially open more career options when you do decide to leave University as you have a higher qualification than the average Joe.
- Although a Masters degree is not necessary to do a PhD, it is very much recommended and that PhD lets you add that Dr. prefix to your name.

There are many counter-arguments that are just as valid, which can also create just as rewarding career options as doing a Masters or PhD.

1. Graduate trainee programmes can be an excellent choice after you finish your degree, with the Student Guidance Centre offering many different job guides like *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers*. Earning that dolla' while you learn a new career can never be a bad option.
2. You don't necessarily need a Masters certification to get the job you want in sectors like journalism, publishing or marketing.
3. A basic suggestion: use your academic expertise to teach the next generation and follow the PGCE pathway.
4. Remember: you can get a loan from Student Finance to help with your tuition fees, but a maintenance loan won't be part of the deal. If you do want that Masters, you might want to consider alternative ways of saving money to pay for that extra degree.

(HG)

THE EDITORS

Issue 8 of *The Edit* has been edited by

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WE ARE RECRUITING!

The MEDIA Programme need creative, motivated individuals for the 2018/2019. If you want to be part of next year's team, book onto the Media Taster Session on 1st March and download an application form on MyFuture!