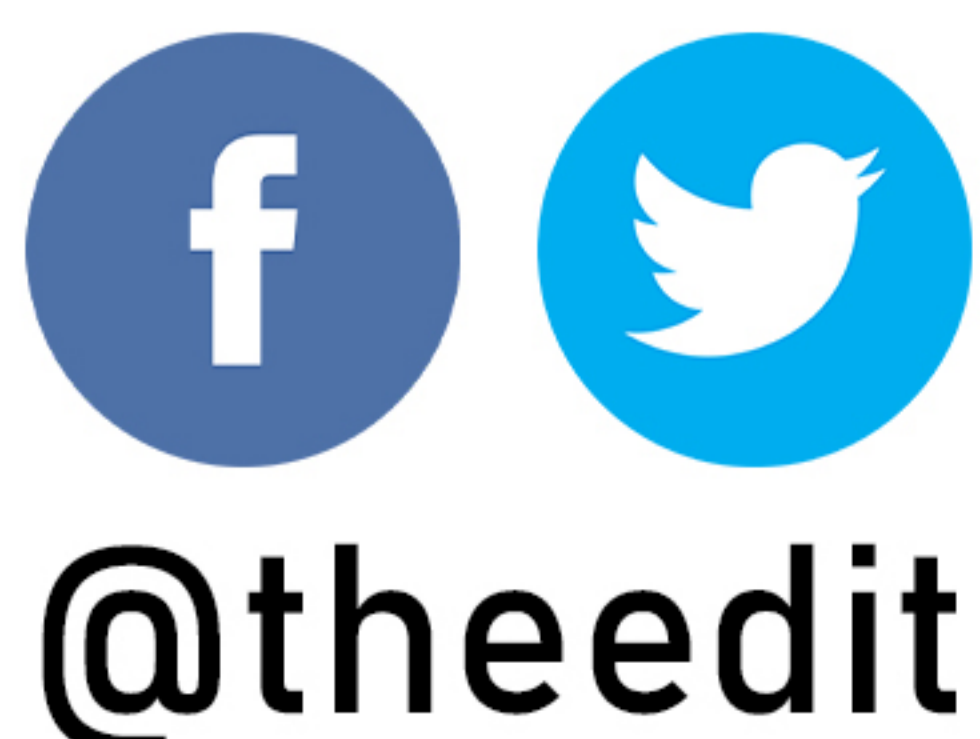


the edit

Explore | Decide | Implement | Thrive



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

Issue 16
March 2020

WELCOME BACK!

by Kali McDermott

Welcome to the final edition of the Edit for this academic year. While I'm sure many of you can't wait to take off on your holidays and simply relax, here at The Edit we believe you should also be making the most of your summer. This edition will be focusing on ways a student like you and me can turn a summer of Wotsits and binge watching The Witcher (just me?) into a productive few months that any employer would be happy to hear about.

GOOD MARKS JUST AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH

by Kali McDermott

Throughout our academic careers the following mantra is repeated to us:

"In order to get a good job, you need to go to a good university. In order to go to a good university, you need to get good grades."

Well evidently, we got the good grades and due to this, we are constantly working for that 1st. However, in the new decade employers aren't just looking for smart people (although this is essential), they're looking at your experience and who you are as a person. The best way to stand out is not simply through how many internships you've done, but also through who you've benefited and not just benefited from. This is where volunteering comes in.

In a previous issue of The Edit, Volunteer SU was discussed. However, there are other avenues you could take. On the Queen's University website there is plenty of information made available to students concerning volunteer work. Not only does the experience shape who you are as a person, but also bolsters your CV. Two birds? Meet stone.

English Students? The International Voluntary Service is asking for people like YOU to take the time to teach young students English in Kenya and Thailand. Put your skills to the test, see if teaching is for you, or just help influence young people's lives. You don't even have to be an English student. Do you speak English? Great! Apply today! I guarantee that it will be worth it.

Visit <https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/careers/JobEventsandFairs/Volunteering/> To find out more.

AN OPEN LETTER

by Kali McDermott

A journey of little self-discovery and a lack of all that jazz

Dear (y/n),

Telling you my name is irrelevant for two reasons, 1) that would be weird, stranger danger; and 2) I am about to tell you a life story that isn't necessarily mine alone, but an eclectic piece that I'm sure most of you will be able to relate to. Anyway...

Everyone around you is constantly asking you what you want to do with your life and most of the time, at least in my experience, you either lie and say some ostentatious profession that makes you sound educated, or you say the scariest three little words known to a student, "I don't know." At age 17 we are expected to know exactly what we want to study and exactly where we want to study it. We pick a course we think 'sounds like something I'd be good at', five universities to do it in and just like that we have mapped our course. I had no idea what I was going to study, never mind where I was going to study it. So, with the help of a friend's parent I chose English.

Queen's University has been a phenomenal experience so far and is teaching me how to "adult" each and every day. However, I still have no idea what I'm going to do after I leave. What I'm trying to say in a swirly-whirly kind of way is that we shouldn't be afraid of not knowing. Especially in an AHSS course where we often have the freedom of choosing what we want to learn, not just what is compulsory. It's okay to be confused and it's okay to say, "I have no friggin' clue what I am doing," because that's what university is for, exploring and gaining new opportunities.

So, coming to the end of this semester, I urge you to take the summer to explore your skills and interests. Volunteer, apply for an internship, travel, do whatever you have to do to "find yourself". But at the end of it all, when you're still confused and a little scared of having to leave the comfort blanket of university, hold your hands up and say, "I'll figure it out" because you, my friend, aren't the only one trying. The Careers Employability and Skills team is here to help you as you try to "figure it out." You can make an appointment to meet with a careers consultant to talk through your skills, interests and potential careers.

To quote J.R.R Tolkien, not all those who wander are lost.

Sincerely,

A fellow wanderer

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER

by Connor McCleery

For many people, summer is a time of laziness. After all your hard work at school, many choose to lay around and do nothing. However, summer is an excellent opportunity to both expand your employability and gain experience in new fields. Here are some excellent ways to have a productive summer:

Internships and studying abroad

Although the idea of doing more work during the summer may appear daunting, it is not without its rewards.

MyFuture at Queens University is a service that is criminally underused by students. MyFuture is not just for careers events, but employers actually post their jobs on the site. MyFuture is a great place to look for internships, placements, part-time jobs, on-campus jobs, and full time jobs. The employers are looking for QUB students, which is why they use MyFuture to connect with QUB students directly. One example of the GoGlobal programme is the Study USA Programme, where you will spend a full academic year studying at an American College.

Another effective way to gain experience is to have a LinkedIn Account. LinkedIn is an internet service that puts students and employers on one platform. It is used mainly for professional networking, with employers posting vacancies and job seekers posting their CVs. As of June 2019, LinkedIn had 630 million members enrolled in 150 countries.

Get a hobby

I know you are probably thinking that the parents are having a go at you again for being on your phone too much and that you need to go outside or read a book. However, obtaining a hobby outside of work has been proven to improve your career aspects.

The Journal of Vocal Behaviour recently conducted research that suggests that partaking in hobbies or other activities outside of work not only improves your mood but could improve career prospects. Creative hobbies such as arts and crafts are especially useful to employers in marketing, PR and design!

Show some interest, you never know when that awful hobby you indulge may prove useful.

Volunteering

Maybe you believe that employers could not care less about how many hours you clock in to your favourite games. Fear not. There are endless opportunities available at Queen's Student Union to help you get relevant volunteer experience.

The Queens Students Union is another gem that has been ignored, and it has a goldmine of opportunities for volunteering work!

Many include on campus work such as Handy Helpers, an organisation that gets involved with helping the local community in the daily lives, or the Homework Club, where you become teachers for small children and help those in need with their academic work.

Local opportunities may be vast, but pale in comparison to Queen's University links to global volunteer networks. If you wish to be on constant contact with the Students Union and volunteering opportunities, sign up their newsletter at volunteer@qub.ac.uk or visit their website at <https://qubsu.org/VolunteerSU/>.

BBC JULIE FORBES ON CV SKILLS

by James Hall

As part of the Digital Cities festival in 2019, BBC talent manager Julie Forbes held a workshop, supported by RTS Futures and BBC NI, which aimed to give advice on CV skills and gaining experience in the industry. Here are some of the top tips and opportunities gleaned from the event.

CV SKILLS

It is important to remember that there is no one perfect CV for everybody. We are all different, and therefore each person's CV should be tailored to their individual skills and abilities. When applying for different jobs, you should adjust your CV each time to include specific skills, relevant experience and achievements and your own personal qualities. As well as experience of work, listing seminars and workshops you have attended shows interest and enthusiasm for your vocation.

Whilst there is no one perfect CV, there are a couple of things you can do however to make sure it is easier to read and comprehend.

- **Keep it short and succinct** – nobody likes rambling and neither do employers, the ability to convey what's necessary as concisely as possible is a valued skill.
- **Clear and professional font** - no comic sans unfortunately, all the employer will know about you is what's written on the page, so the words and the way they're presented need to speak for you.
- **Logical order** - a CV which is easy to read is more likely to leave an impression
- **List relevant experience before education, and do so in reverse chronological order** - this way employers are aware of your most recent work, and then learn about your progression.

BUT HOW DO YOU FILL A CV?

It's all well and good having a nice-looking CV, but what's most important is its contents. One of Julie's most important pieces of advice was to always take any opportunity made available to you, and any chance to meet people and make connections. For getting into the TV industry, she suggested researching local independent production companies and contacting them for experience opportunities. As well, NI Screen is a great resource which has a section devoted to upcoming opportunities.

Another avenue for opportunities is the BBC Talent Cloud, an online database where off-air freelancers can upload their details, CV and availability, and make themselves known to BBC bookers who use the database to hire. The database's main purpose is to hire people looking for short-term work, making it perfect for students who want to gain experience in the field.

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

by Connor McCleery

You think were done telling you about our great volunteering opportunities? Far from it. Here are some great examples which you can take throughout the globe.



Habitat
for Humanity[®]
Northern Ireland

Every year, volunteers from across Northern Ireland travel to support partner programmes around the world. They experience first-hand the impact of poverty housing and help make a lasting difference to families in need. Volunteers are encouraged to become a voice for safe shelter when they return home; inspiring others to reach many more families in need.

A development and volunteering organisation committed to tackling poverty in the majority of the world by working in solidarity, service and partnership with marginalised and oppressed communities, empowering them to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice. They help communities enhance the lives of children and young people and recognises that gender equality is pivotal to achieving justice, equality and sustainable development.



East African Playgrounds provides play programmes in disadvantaged communities across Uganda. Their work includes the installation of a high quality, safe and exciting playground, based on community consultation and following the latest international safety standards, training teachers and promoting healthy development of children

A development programme that brings together young people from the UK and developing countries to volunteer in some of the poorest communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. UK participants volunteer side-by-side with local volunteers in developing countries, staying with host families in the local community.



MEET THE EDITORS AND THE MEDIA PROGRAMME

by Kali McDermott

Time to Say Goodbye

You heard it, folks. This is the final edition of The Edit for this academic year. We hope you enjoyed all of our editions and hopefully you gained some valuable advice, and maybe even feel more comfortable telling people you are an AHSS student. As a professor of mine once said, "stem students think that they're smart, but we're the real thinkers." And she's right. People misunderstand us when we say that we belong to the AHSS school: they immediately assume we want to be teachers, professors, writers, etc. when we are so much more than that. We are philosophers, lawyers, historians, CEO's, publishers and the list goes on. Be proud to be an AHSS student. We are the future.

BUT WAIT!

This isn't the end. The Edit needs new recruits for the next academic year, and you could be one of them. Apply now and don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to not only gain experience for your CV (or get degree plus!), but to be a part of The Edit team.

Apply via MyFuture.



the edit

KEY DATES

MAR
23

MEDIA Programme Applications Close
Apply via MyFuture

MAR
25

Global Opportunities - Focus on Summer
1-2pm Student Centre Guidance Hub

MAR
30

Queen's Global Leadership Programme 2020 Applications
March 30th & 31st

MAY
18

Development Weeks
May 18th - May 29th

MAY
27

Global Opportunities Awareness Session
1-2pm Student Guidance Center, Seminar Room

JUN
2

Northern Ireland Graduate Recruitment Fair
Ulster University Jordanstown Campus

THE EDITORS



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