

CAREERS, EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS



Step into Your Future...

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### **PROGRAMME OF LIVE EVENTS**

### WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE

GRAD

FEST



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FULL PROGRAMME HERE

### WELCOME TO **GRADFEST2020**



The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all of us, in so many ways. As a graduate, we are aware that you'll need our support now, more than ever, as you start your career journey under extraordinary circumstances.

Working in consultation with employers, alumni and our colleagues from across the University, Queen's Careers, Employability and Skills team have created GradFest2020. The event is a testament to our commitment to supporting you in building your career, navigating the graduate landscape and transitioning into the next stage of your life.

Through GradFest2020, you will have access to advice and guidance from top employers, from our alumni network and from our trained career consultants. You'll get an insight into what recruitment will look like over the next 12 months and have the opportunity to explore all your options, including Queen's wide range of postgraduate programmes.

Your wellbeing and future success are key priorities for us and this guide provides a range of additional support and information to make sure that you get the most out of GradFest2020. You'll find all of the tools, platforms and advice

"As a graduate, we are aware that you'll need our support now, more than ever, as you start your career journey under extraordinary circumstances"

you need to support you during these challenging times, whether you are seeking employment or are already holding a job offer.

We look forward to seeing you online on 17th and 18th of June. In the meantime, we will continue to work with employers to source opportunities for our graduates and will update available jobs on the <u>MyFuture</u> platform. With best wishes

Professor David Jones **Pro-Vice Chancellor** (Education and Students)

### **FACULTY WELCOME**

NOW, MORE THAN **EVER, THERE IS A NEED TO INVESTIGATE HOW TO SECURE, PROCESS** AND SAFELY TRANSMIT **INFORMATION CREATED BY CITIZENS. ENTERPRISE AND GOVERNMENT.** 

"When the world slows down, there is space for invention and for ideas that can change the world."

**Professor Phil Hanna**, **Dean of Education Faculty** of engineering and Physical Sciences



COMPUTER SCIENTISTS AT THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION **TECHNOLOGY (ECIT)** HAVE DESIGNED A NEW INNOVATIVE SYSTEM TO REDUCE **DELAYS ON SMART DEVICES.** 

**MORE ONLINE HERE** 

THE BELFAST REGION **CITY DEAL IS MADE UP OF 22 INTEGRATED PROJECTS THAT EACH** FALL WITHIN ONE OF **THREE INVESTMENT PILLARS AND ARE INTENDED TO** DELIVER ECONOMIC **GROWTH WITH** 20,000 NEW AND **BETTER JOBS.** 





FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

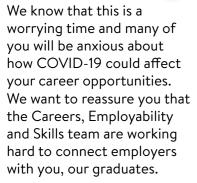




"As technology infiltrates our world of work further and further, it is our innate, human skills, such as our creativity, which will hold the highest value."

Karen Young, **Director Hays UK** 

### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CAREERS TEAM**



As your Career Consultants, we will continue to support you in your transition from university to employment or further study. We are currently offering Career Consultations and CV check appointments online using Microsoft Teams. Appointments can be booked in the usual way through MyFuture.

The pages of this Guide will help prepare you for your next steps. You can read inspiring graduate stories and lessons learned from Queen's students who graduated not that long ago. Hear advice and guidance for your first few years directly from employers. You can also navigate current vacancies, skills development opportunities and postgraduate options.

Did you know that your Careers Service at Queen's continues to support you for up to two years after graduation? Find out how in the pages ahead. We will explain how you can set-up job alerts, record and practice video interviews and use our online CV Checker for detailed feedback on your CV within 15 seconds.

We are also delighted to invite you to GradFest2020, our online skills event, taking place on 17 and 18 June. Our experts will be on-hand with live masterclasses on everything from building your online brand to the secrets of a successful virtual interview. You will hear from key employers, successful alumni and from our trained career consultants. You can also join our Live Chat with Employers. You may have spotted the Full Programme at the start of this Guide, if not - take a look!

You can access the Live Event on our dedicated GradFest2020 Website. The site will also bring you information and resources: you can browse Employer profiles, ask them a question, explore current vacancies

and find inspiration watching our graduate stories. Thinking of further study? We've got it covered with information on postgraduate options and training. Want to make the most of lockdown? We have an entire section dedicated to developing those all-important employability skills, with resources and training you can access in your own time. This site will remain live for the rest of the summer.

You can access MyFuture, our career management system for two years after you graduate. Find out below how you can tailor your job search and create alerts. Our careers website contains a range of resources you can access and don't forget our social media channels for the latest news and updates. You can join us on Linkedin, find us on Facebook or follow us on Instagram and Twitter.

We hope you enjoy this Guide and look forward to seeing you at GradFest 2020. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your achievements so far and wish you well as you step into your future.

#### Your Careers, Employability and Skills Team

**MORE ONLINE HERE** 

### CAREERS, EMPLOYABILITY AND **SKILLS – WE ARE HERE FOR YOU**

Find out how the Careers Service can help you now and after graduation.

#### ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

Make the most of expert careers advice and guidance

For two years after graduation, Graduates can access up to five Career Consultations per academic year, although most only need one or two. The aim of these consultations is to support you so that you can successfully manage your own career.

We are currently offering virtual (online) one-to-one appointments using Microsoft Teams. Appointments can be booked in the usual way through MyFuture and you will be contacted by the Consultant taking your appointment with further details.

Fine-tune your CV in seconds Before you graduate, you can make use of a new online tool VMock which enables you to upload your CV and get instant feedback.

**CHECK OUT OUR CAREERS RESOURCES BY SECTOR:** 

- CHARITY AND **DEVELOPMENT WORK**
- CULTURE, ARTS, MEDIA
- FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING
- HEALTHCARE
- HUMAN RESOURCES, **RECRUITMENT &** TRAINING
- IT- FOR NON-COMPUTING **STUDENTS**
- LEGAL
- MANAGEMENT
- PURCHASING, LOGISTICS AND SUPPLY CHAIN
- SOCIAL CARE, GUIDANCE **AND COMMUNITY** 
  - TEACHING & TEFL

### CHECK OUT OUR CAREERS **RESOURCES BY SCHOOL**

### HERE

 SALES AND MARKETING • TOURISM AND HERITAGE



"I was a History graduate and wasn't sure what to do with the next big step after university. I found out I could do a crossover to the Software Development Master's at Queen's. The **Careers** Team helped me tailor my CV for the tech industry. I still use the CV template they gave me."

Adam Hale, Full Stack Engineer at CompoZed XP labs in Allstate NI



### Power up your Resume with VMock

Queen's University Belfast introduces VMock SMART Career Platform



Instantly get rich feedback on your Resume using 100s of parameters



Your Resume is scored by benchmarking against Community Name peers



Bullet-by-bullet feedback lets you make your Resume better with each sentence

# Sign Up Now!

### www.vmock.com/qub





CAREERS. EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS

"I wasn't sure what to do after Queen's. I used

the Careers Service at Queen's a lot in my final year when I finished my exams. I had the opportunity to meet with employers and do mock interviews and assessment centres. It was brilliant as it gave you the opportunity to see what it would be like when you are actually doing that yourself."

Terri Foden, Audit Senior, EY (Ernst &Young)

### **SUCCEED IN** RECRUITMENT

Employers use different kinds of recruitment methods at different stages of the process. Are you confident that you have these mastered? Career's Employability and Skills have developed a range of resources to help you navigate and succeed in the recruitment process:

DOWNLOAD OUR HELP SHEETS:

- ASSESSMENT CENTRES
- BODY LANGUAGE • **BREAKING THE**
- **INTERVIEW CODE** CV CHECKLIST
- HOW TO WRITE A COVER LETTER
- INTERVIEW CHECKLIST
- PERSONAL SKILLS AUDIT

ACCESS OUR ONLINE **RESOURCES:** 

- WRITTEN APPLICATIONS **CVS, COVER LETTERS AND APPLICATION FORMS**
- FACE-TO-FACE AND **ONLINE INTERVIEWS**
- PSYCHOMETRIC TESTS PREPARE AND PRACTISE
- WHAT TO EXPECT AT AN **ASSESSMENT CENTRE**

### WATCH OUR VIDEOS:

- HOW TO WRITE AN **EFFECTIVE CV**
- TIPS FOR ONLINE **INTERVIEWS**
- COMPETENCY BASED **INTERVIEWS VS STRENGTH BASED INTERVIEWS**
- HOW TO USE LINKEDIN **EFFECTIVELY**



**FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE BETWEEN** £7,500 TO £10,000 TO **UNDERTAKE TRAINING** IN THE FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SECTOR OR **IN RELATED SUBJECTS** WITH A MANSION **HOUSE SCHOLARSHIP** 

### **THE POWER OF FIRST IMPRESSIONS**

IN A SURVEY OF 2000 MANAGERS

33%

CLAIMED TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD HIRE SOMEONE WITHIN

**SECONDS** 



### OP TIPS HERE

#### MORE

### **SEARCH JOBS, SET ALERTS** AND MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR **CAREER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**



**MYFUTURE IS YOUR ONLINE CAREER** MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND THE GOOD NEWS -YOU CAN STILL ACCESS **IT TWO YEARS AFTER GRADUATION. YOU CAN** USE IT TO:

- Research employers
- Search graduate jobs and internships
- Follow organisations for vacancy updates
- Navigate careers fairs
- Register for employer-led events and skills sessions Book a careers consultation
- Connect with a careers
- consultant via our E-guidance service
- Access mock interview, psychometric and aptitude tests
- Book a room for skype/video interviews

TAILORING YOUR JOB SEARCH AND SETTING UP **ALERTS IN MYFUTURE:** 

### QUICK GUIDE

MyFuture Jobs has a range of clever features to help you filter down the most relevant jobs for you – and set alerts so they come straight to your inbox!

The homepage for the jobs section contains:

- Because you viewed (looks at the last job you viewed and recommends jobs based on this)
- People on your course are interested in (looks at jobs that other students on your course have viewed / applied to)
- Latest jobs (most recently posted jobs)
- Trending jobs (jobs that have the most views at this moment)

To search for a job, you can enter a keyword and select search or select "Filter All Jobs" and filter by position type, industry, job function and/or more filters course, posted date, apply by.

You can also set up a Job Alert for a specific filter. This will send a regular (e.g. weekly) email of the filtered list to your Queen's email. Once a job alert has been created, you can click into the alert list to see how often you would like the job alert emailed to your Queen's account. You can also delete or modify existing job alerts.

Save a favourite job by clicking on the star - or dislike by clicking on the thumbs down.

Follow and favourite employers

- select Follow within the select job advert. Live jobs from this employer will now show on your student homepage and are added to Favourite employers list.

Find out more about how to use and make the most of MyFuture <u>here</u>.

# MyFuture: It's About **Your** Future

MyFuture is your online career management system at Queen's. Use it to search, view, book and apply to:

Jobs: Graduate Jobs, placements, Internships, summer work, part time jobs and Queen's OnCampus Jobs. Appointments: One to one career consultations and learning development support. **Events:** Careers fairs, career development workshops, employability development programmes and employer panels.



Access via <u>www.gub.ac.uk/myfuture</u> or search symplicity Jobs and Careers in:





You will find the App handy for jobs searches and appointments

A set of student user instructions are available on the Careers website at http://go.gub.ac.uk/myfuturehowto



### **GRADUATE JOB SEARCH WEBSITES**

### www.qub.ac.uk/myfuture

### NORTHERN IRELAND

#### **UK WIDE**

www.nijobfinder.co.uk www.qub.ac.uk/careers www.irishnews.com www.jobcentreonline.com www.recruitni.com www.nijobs.com www.totaljobs.com www.indeed.co.uk

### Health:

https://jobs.hscni.net Education: www.eani.org.uk **Civil Service:** www.nicsrecruitment.gov.uk

### www.qub.ac.uk/careers https://jobs.theguardian.com www.targetjobs.co.uk www.milkround.com www.graduate-jobs.com www.fish4jobs.co.uk www.gradcracker.com www.gradplus.com www.monster.co.uk www.indeed.co.uk www.cv-library.co.uk www.reed.co.uk www.grb.uk.com www.bubble-jobs.co.uk www.gradintel.com

### **REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

www.gradireland.com www.qub.ac.uk/careers www.irishjobs.ie www.recruitireland.com www.jobs.ie/ www.careers4graduates.com www.jobsireland.ie

**FIND OUT HOW YOU** CAN SECURE A PLACE AT THE THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP FORUM WHICH BRINGS **STUDENTS TOGETHER TO ENGAGE WITH A GLOBAL NETWORK OF** VISIONARY LEADERS.

#### **GRAD GUIDE 2020**





### CAREERS, EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS

www.prospects.ac.uk

www.top100graduateemployers.com



### **EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS - WHAT ARE THEY AND DO I HAVE THEM?**

Being successful in your career is more than just having the right qualifications. You need to be able to stand out from the crowd and demonstrate what else you can offer. Employability skills are the added extras you can bring to an organisation and employers look out for them when recruiting. You will have to state them on your CV and application form, demonstrate them during an online test and in an assessment centre, and evidence them in an interview.

But they're not difficult to gain and how you add to your skill set can be as unique and individual as you. University assignments can build teamwork and time management, getting involved in a club or society develops communication and leadership, a part time job improves your business awareness and interpersonal skills. Placements, internships, sports, volunteering and community involvement can all help in the recruitment process.

Throughout your working life you may have multiple jobs and even within one position the role will evolve and change. Employability skills are attributes you take with you, to be successful within perhaps multiple sectors and achieve the goals you set for yourself. You may have already been accredited for your skills development through Degree Plus. Employability skills are an investment in yourself both now and for your future.

We have identified 12 employability skills and developed resources to help you understand and develop your skills

### COGNITIVE/INTELLECTUAL **SKILLS, SUCH AS:**

1. Problem solving: the ability to analyse issues, identify barriers and offer/implement potential solutions. This may involve prioritising tasks, coping with complexity, setting achievable goals and taking action. It may also involve innovation at relevant points.

(Other terms might include - thinking creatively/decision making).

2. Applying subject knowledge and understanding: potentially from the degree pathway.

(This might also include researching the types of industry/roles that the subject knowledge could lead to and mechanisms for doing this).

### PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES/ATTITUDES SUCH AS:

3. Communication skills: the ability to communicate effectively in a range of professional contexts (both orally and in writing).

(Could also include body language, presentation skills, listening skills, communication styles)

4. Teamwork: the ability to work with others in a team, to communicate, influence, negotiate, demonstrating adaptability/flexibility, creativity, initiative, leadership and decision-making.

(Might include knowledge of their teamworking style, types of teams, working with remote teams, leading teams, running meetings).

5. Interpersonal skills: includes the ability to engage with and motivate others, sensitivity, global and cultural awareness, moral and ethical awareness and the ability to adjust behaviour accordingly.

(Other terms might include - emotional intelligence, self-awareness, building on strengths, self-management).

6. Leadership skills: leading other individuals or groups through a set of complex decisions as part of goal achievement within projects or significant and challenging activities.

(Leadership styles, leadership theories, performance, motivation).

### PERSONAL **SKILLS** AUDIT HERE

"We have identified 12 employability skills and developed BUSINESS AND ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS resources to help you understand and develop your skills"

### ACCESS **RESOURCES**

### **TECHNICAL SKILLS SUCH** AS:

- 7. Utilise modern technology: associated with work place or work-related activity.
- 8. Information technology skills: includes ability to learn, apply and exploit relevant IT programmes.

### **BUSINESS AND ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS** SUCH AS:

9. Business operational skills/ **Commercial awareness:** understanding of relevant commercial, marketing, management and/or financial processes/principles. Awareness of differences in organisational cultures and practices.

**MORE ONLINE HERE** 

10.Business communication skills: Written, verbal and/or online.

(Could also include - business etiquette, coaching, collaboration, influencing others).

### LANGUAGE SKILLS AND **CULTURAL AWARENESS**

- 11. Proficiency in foreign languages: developed through courses or overseas experiences.
- 12. Cultural awareness/ intelligence: and the ability to implement this in a variety of multicultural contexts.



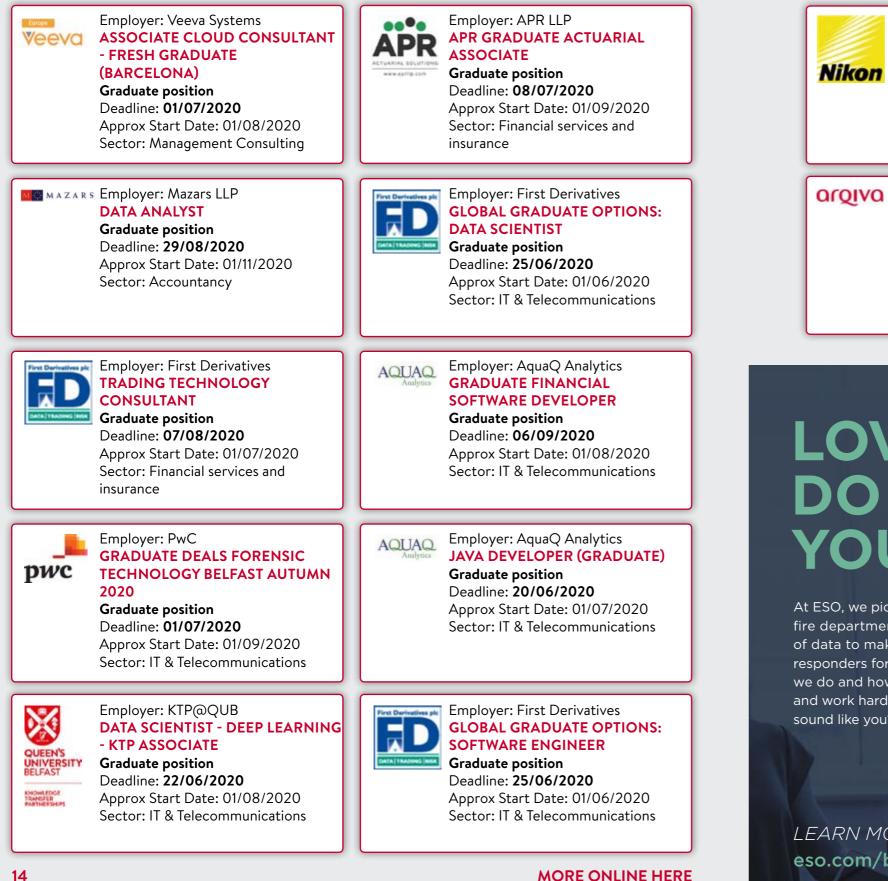
### MAKE THE MOST OF LOCKDOWN AND DEVELOP YOUR EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

The Careers, Employability and Skills service has curated resources to help you identify the skills that employers will want, build upon the skills that you already have, develop new skills and give you some ideas about how you can articulate those skills. They will also help you to understand how skills are transferable across different jobs, industries and cultures.

### **ACCESS OUR VIDEO:**

How to Improve Your **Employability While Social** Distancing

VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY



# **JOBS LISTINGS ... JOBS LISTINGS**

### VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY

Employer: Nikon Precision Europe FIELD SERVICE ENGINEER Graduate position Nikon Deadline: 27/06/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/08/2020 Sector: Engineering - Electric & Electronic **OrQIVO** Employer: Arqiva **GRADUATE TECHNICAL** CONSULTANT Graduate position

Deadline: 05/07/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020 Sector: IT & Telecommunications

# LOVE WHAT YOU DO AND WHO YOU DO IT FOR.

At ESO, we pioneer modern technology to transform the way EMS, fire departments, and hospitals in North America use the power of data to make communities healthier and safer. We're the first responders for the first responders, and we're damn proud of what we do and how we do it. We roll up our sleeves every day, dig in, and work hard in a fast-paced, high-growth environment. Does this sound like you? Come make a difference with us right here in Belfast.

LEARN MORE eso.com/belfast-jobs

### SENTIRE L Employer: Sentireal **GRADUATE PLACEMENT - XR** APPLICATION DEVELOPER Graduate position

Deadline: **30/06/2020** Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020 Sector: IT & Telecommunications

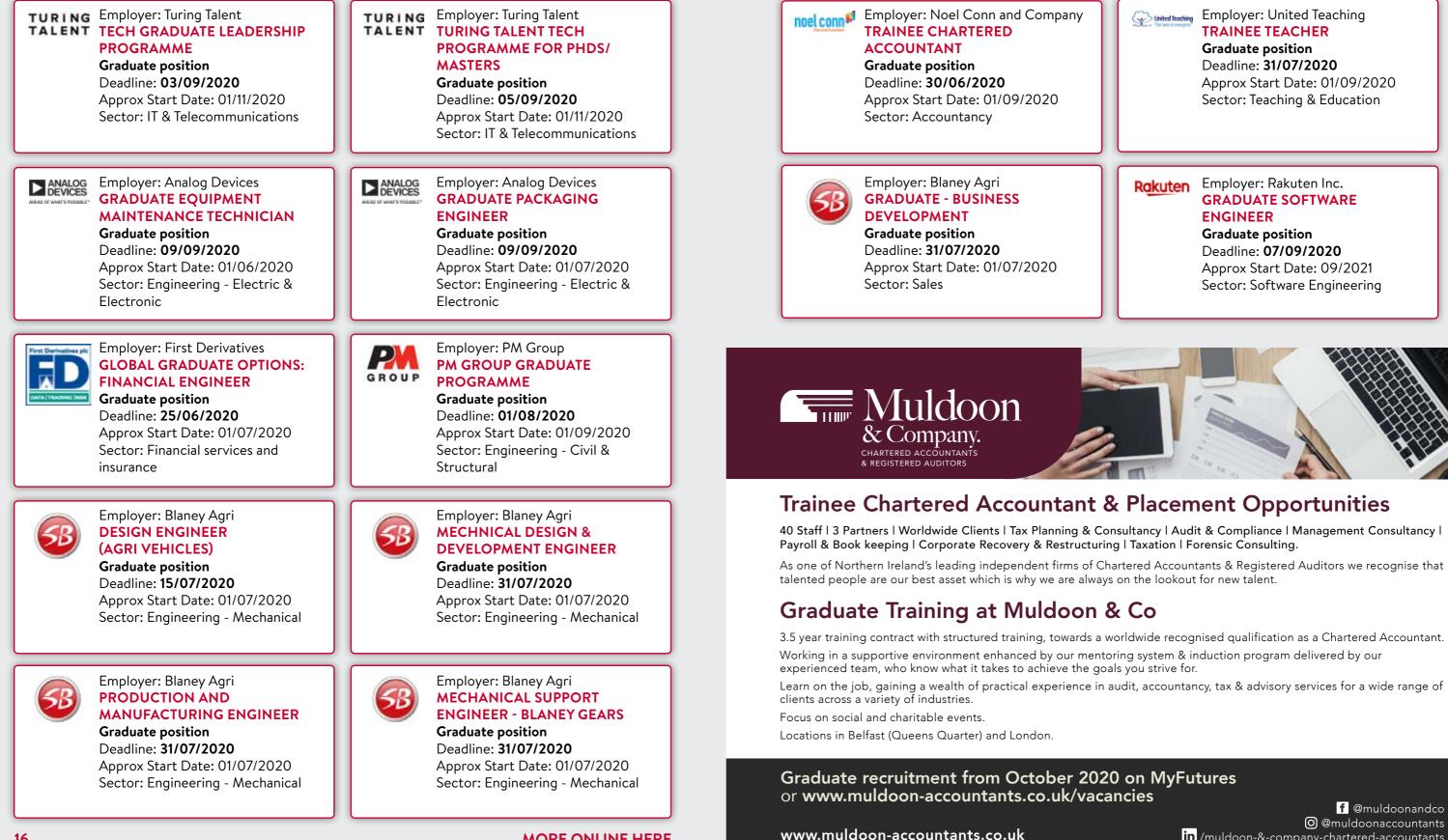
### JJ Loughran

### Employer: JJ Loughran Limited GRADUATE ELECTRICAL DESIGN/ **PROJECT ENGINEER**

#### Graduate position Deadline: 12/08/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020 Sector: Engineering - Electric & Electronic



VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY



## JOBS LISTINGS ... JOBS LISTINGS

#### VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY

#### Employer: United Teaching SUnited Teaching **TRAINEE TEACHER**

Graduate position Deadline: **31/07/2020** Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020 Sector: Teaching & Education

#### Employer: Rakuten Inc. Rakuten **GRADUATE SOFTWARE ENGINEER** Graduate position

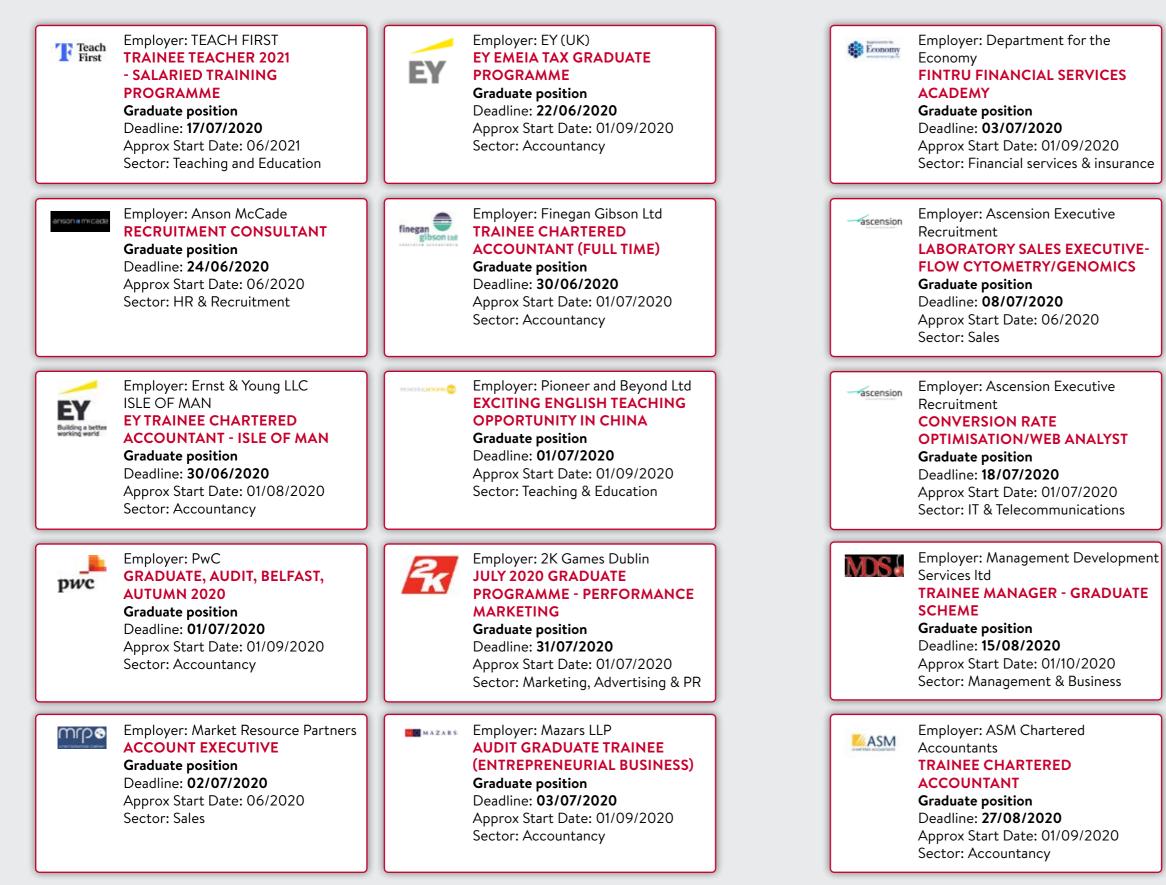
Deadline: 07/09/2020 Approx Start Date: 09/2021 Sector: Software Engineering



3.5 year training contract with structured training, towards a worldwide recognised qualification as a Chartered Accountant.

**f** @muldoonandco • @muldoonaccountants in /muldoon-&-company-chartered-accountants

#### VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY



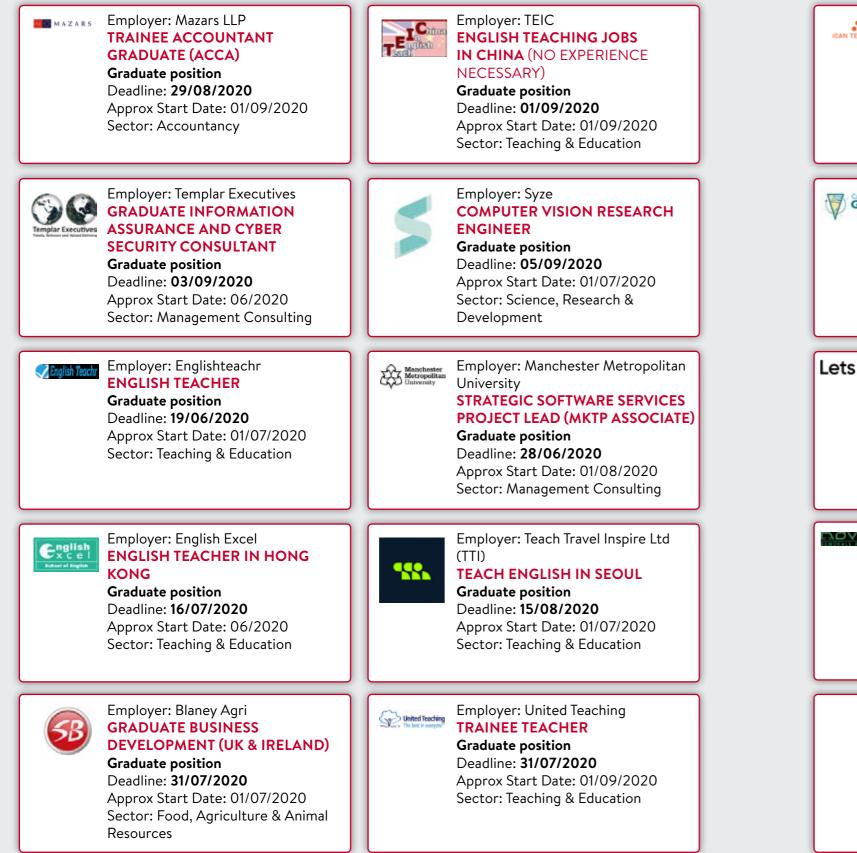
**MORE ONLINE HERE** 

## JOBS LISTINGS ... JOBS LISTINGS

### VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY

FinTrU Loca frant Robel Frank	Employer: FinTrU FINTRU FINANCIAL SERVICES ACADEMY Graduate position Deadline: 03/07/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/08/2020 Sector: Banking & Investment
Gartner	Employer: Gartner GRADUATE SALES ACCOUNT MANAGER Graduate position Deadline: 17/07/2020 Approx Start Date: 06/2020 Sector: Sales
Olenick	Employer: Olenick <b>GRADUATE SOFTWARE TESTER</b> <b>Graduate position</b> Deadline: <b>24/07/2020</b> Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020 Sector: IT & Telecommunications
<b>≇ UNILIN</b>	Employer: UNILIN GRADUATE SUPPLY CHAIN & PROJECT ANALYST Graduate position Deadline: 14/08/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/07/2020 Sector: Logistics, Transport and Supply Chain
PRESK ASIA PODO	Employer: Freshasia Food Ltd MARKETING SUPPORT (MANDARIN SPEAKING) Graduate position Deadline: 28/08/2020 Approx Start Date: 06/2020 Sector: Marketing, Advertising & PR

VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY



## JOBS LISTINGS ... JOBS LISTINGS

### VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY

Employer: Dunbar Education ICAN TEACH UK **POST-PRIMARY ROLES IN ENGLAND - JULY & SEPTEMBER** 2020 Graduate position Deadline: 28/07/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020 Sector: Teaching & Education Employer: Catholic Guides of Ireland Guides Northern Region **GIRL GUIDE YOUTH COACH** Voluntary Deadline: 28/07/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020 Sector: Charity & Voluntary Work Lets Bab Employer: LetsBab **STUDENT CHAMPION BRAND** AMBASSADOR Casual / Part-Time Deadline: 18/06/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020 Sector: Retail, Buying and Merchandising Employer: Movivan SALES / CUSTOMER ADVISOR Casual / Part-Time Deadline: 10/08/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/05/2020 Sector: Sales

> Employer: AMB Labs **SOFTWARE ENGINEER (REMOTE) Internship (2-12 weeks)** Deadline: **02/09/2020** Approx Start Date: 01/06/2020 Sector: IT & Telecommunications

**MORE ONLINE HERE** 



#### Employer: Sublime Science CHILDREN'S SCIENCE PRESENTER Casual / Part-Time Deadline: 31/08/2020

Approx Start Date: 06/2020 Sector: Teaching & Education



#### Employer: Wesser Ltd LIVE-IN CHARITY FUNDRAISER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS SUMMER Casual / Part-Time Deadline: 15/08/2020

Approx Start Date: 01/07/2020 Sector: Charity & Voluntary Work



#### Employer: Love TEFL (i-to-i) ONLINE ENGLISH (TEFL) TEACHER

**Casual / Part-Time** Deadline: **05/09/2020** Approx Start Date: 01/06/2020 Sector: Teaching & Education

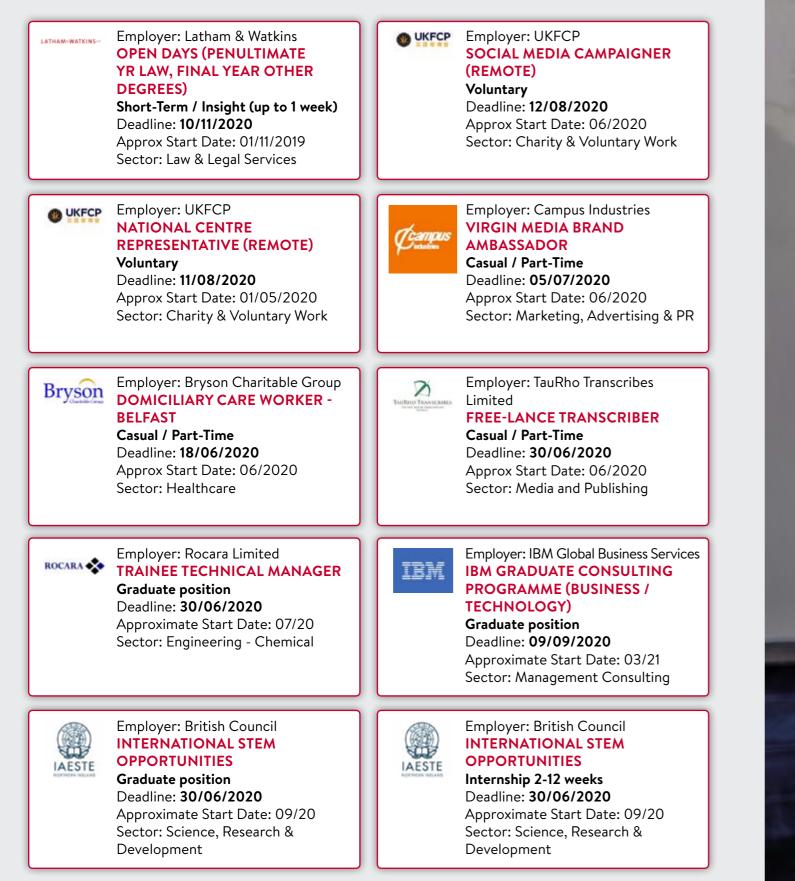


#### Employer: Young Foodies YOUNG FOODIES GRADUATE PROGRAMME 2020: 3-DAY EVENT Short-Term / Insight (up to 1 week) Deadline: 27/06/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/09/2020

Sector: Food, Agriculture & Animal Resources

Employer: ACLE BECOME TEFL-TP® CERTIFIED WITH A.C.L.E. Casual / Part-Time Deadline: 30/06/2020 Approx Start Date: 01/08/2020 Sector: Teaching & Education

VISIT MYFUTURE JOBS FOR MORE DETAILS / OUR CAREERS SITE CAN HELP YOU SEARCH AND APPLY



### **MORE ONLINE HERE**

## Where does studying stop and a career start?

Learn new skills, build your professional network and get a head start on your career with one of our programmes. We offer graduate opportunities, apprenticeships, summer internships and more. By starting a career with us, you'll build a future that's right for you, whether that means earning a qualification or building the skills that set you up for whatever you choose to do.

ukcareers.ey.com/students

Connect with us: EYUKCareers EYCareersUK

The better the question. The better the answer. The better the world works.



### **TEAMWORK SKILLS CAN HELP YOUR CAREER TO THRIVE**

"Teamwork is crucial for businesses. It is one of the fundamental qualities employers looks for in interviews"

Elisa Herbig, Talent Acquisition Specialist, for Belfast-based consultancy firm AquaQ **Analytics** says developing teamworking skills and building your professional network as a graduate is key to a successful, fulfilling career.

Teamwork is crucial for businesses. It is one of the fundamental qualities employers looks for in interviews. As cliché as it sounds, "Teamwork makes the dream work". We may have heard this statement many times, but teamwork really is important from the moment you apply for your first graduate industry role.

Ask yourself: What are the values of working in teams when building a career for yourself? How can employers encourage personal and professional growth through teamwork?

Below, our graduate software developers offer meaningful insight into what teamwork looks like in practice and how working in teams has helped them transition from university into full-time employment:

### What our graduate recruits say:

#### A buddy system provided mentorship

"At AquaQ Analytics teamworking is very much a day-to-day occurrence. On my first day I was given a buddy who acted as a mentor and was there to answer any questions I had regarding the company or the work I was doing. I started at the company with a number of other graduates. Within this cohort we worked together in problem-solving classroom sessions led by more experienced colleagues."

Embrace opportunities to learn from colleagues

"I found that coming from a non-computational background starting the training with a group of graduates who had coding experience was really helpful. Later on, working with senior people was really good for improving the standard of my coding - efficiency and how clear it is - and for acquiring tips to make doing the work easier."

Nicole Watterson, BSc Biomedical Science:

#### Peer communication is key

"As part of our training we were put on DevOps which are extremely team related. Within our cohort we worked together on different tasks before coming together with a complete solution. Peer communication as well as receiving feedback from more senior developers regularly was very important to make this process as efficient as possible."

Peter Smiley, MEng Chemical Engineering

#### Working with others is a good learning experience

"Being in a group of people with different degree backgrounds was a good learning experience. DevOps blended both teamwork with other new starts and learning to communicate 'correctly' with clients and managers."

Antone Bagnall, MEng Computer Games Development

Brendan Mullan, BSc Astrophysics

### **MORE ONLINE HERE**

#### Teamwork is helpful for client projects

"I found teamwork really helpful once we started working on client projects with more senior people on the team. I am still making use of the communication conventions between teams that we were introduced to us during DevOps."

Leevan Trindade, MPhys Physics

#### Jump in and start building relationships

"Moving into a new environment can be intimidating. The best way to rid yourself of any fear or anxiety is to jump in and start building relationships with your team/peers. This support network will make you feel much more at home. In my case I literally was working from home due to starting my career during lockdown, so I was very fortunate to have other developers reach out to me. Those small gestures alone helped me settle in quickly despite the circumstances."

Ben Pelan, MSc Software Development

#### There is plenty of senior support available

"On my current project, we are having daily scrum meetings which give everyone a chance to catch up and talk about where they are with their tasks and what they have been doing. I think for a graduate, good progress also depends on if there are senior developers available which there are plenty of in the AquaQ office or currently via apps like Slack, Skype or Microsoft Teams."

Conor Mackle, BEng Software Engineering **GRAD GUIDE 2020** 

### **DISCOVER KNOWLEDGE** TRANSFER PARTNERSHIPS AT QUEEN'S

Bridging the gap between academia and business, a KTP offers an opportunity to apply what you have learned at Queen's to a real-world industry challenge.

#### What is a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)?

A KTP is a mutually beneficial, three-way collaboration between:

- A graduate or post graduate (known as an Associate)
- · An organisation (a UK-based business of any size, in any sector or a not-for-profit organisation)
- A university/research institution (Queen's University)

A Knowledge Transfer Partnership serves to meet a core strategic need of an organisation to identify and deliver an innovative project that will bring about lasting, transformative change. As a KTP Associate you will have the opportunity to apply your recently acquired academic knowledge to a real life challenge that delivers tactical change within an organisation.

A KTP is the perfect launchpad, helping enhance your career prospects by providing you with an opportunity to manage an innovative project central to a business's strategic development and long term growth. You will have access to a substantial training and development budget and take ownership of a project, with the added support and guidance of Queen's world class academics.

KTP at Queen's offers roles in many different disciplines including;

- Biological Sciences
- Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

 Chemistry and Chemical Engineering

- Management
- Biomedical Sciences
- Pharmacy

### A KTP allows you to:

- unique platform.
  - Take on a role that bridges academia and business.
    - Take ownership of your own project.
    - Apply your academic knowledge to a real-life challenge, delivering strategic or tactical change.
    - Manage your own substantial training and development budget - you can also use this to attend conferences and cover membership of professional bodies etc.

### How to become a KTP Associate

All KTP posts are open for suitably gualified graduates to apply and, due to the unique nature of each job, there is no 'one size fits all' set of candidate requirements. The qualification and experience-level required can vary between roles.

As a KTP Associate, you are employed by the University and based in the partner company to deliver the KTP project. The recruitment process is carried out jointly and we always try to hold the interviews on the company premises.

Civil and Structural Engineering

Mathematics and Physics

• Fast track your career from a

Please visit Queen's KTP site to browse our current opportunities. All current KTP roles can be found under 'Current Opportunities' on our website, or on the main Queen's University website, usually under 'KTP jobs'.

#### Salary and other benefits

As a KTP Associate, your salary will be decided by the company, in line with industry standards and with any other company employees at a similar level.

Don't forget that, in addition to salary, an Associate on a standard two-year KTP project will have access to over £8,000 for training and travel. Training requirements are agreed with your academic and company supervisors, to ensure that any skills gaps are addressed at an early stage.

Each KTP Associate is also required to attend two one-week training residential modules to develop core people and project management skills that enable you to manage the KTP and get the most from the people and resources around you.

As a member of University staff, you will also have access to staff training courses, library and sports facilities, as well as the option to join the University Pension.

Visit Queen's KTP site for more details here

Contact us at ktp@qub.ac.uk

Or





KNOWLEDGE

# INSIDE THE FINTRU FINANCIAL SERVICES ACADEMY

FinTrU's Graduate Training Programme offers successful candidates the opportunity to work alongside some of the world's largest Investment Banks from right here in Northern Ireland. Here, our previous graduates share their experience.

**CLICK HERE** to find out more!



Andrew McVeigh

### PUTTING LOCAL TALENT ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

"FinTrU's client base includes many of the world's leading investment banks. This creates incredible opportunities for graduates to work in the Financial Services industry at a global level, while based in Northern Ireland. My role in Risk Management involves working with senior employees in both London and New York which proves to be challenging, rewarding and interesting during these times of market uncertainty in response to global events."

Andrew McVeigh - FinTrU Analyst 1, BSc Finance



Mairead McNicholl

### SUPPORTING YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

"During the FinTrU Academy I developed a variety of technical and soft skills which I use every day. This helped me adjust to my new role in the Risk department. The FinTrU Academy also prepared us to complete the first Investment Operations Certificate (IOC) exam which is an industry recognised qualification. Since completing the Academy training, FinTrU has continued to support my professional development through the FinTrU DNA Programme which gives employees the opportunity to undertake a wide range of professional gualifications using this I have been able to obtain the full IOC certificate within my first year."

Mairead McNicholl - FinTrU Analyst 2, BSc Finance



Luke Martin



**Bernadine Feeney** 



FinTrU LOCAL TALENT GLOBAL ST

**MORE ONLINE HERE** 

"The Social Committee acts as a point of contact for clubs and committees within the company, helping to organise and promote ongoing events. As part of the committee I help distribute funds for different events and fundraisers from the committee budget. I also get involved in organising many of these social initiatives, including themed bake sales and pub guizzes. The Social Committee has provided a platform for me to meet colleagues in other parts of the business from outside of my team. It gives a unique opportunity to get involved in organising and promoting FinTrU's social and cultural initiatives outside of my daily role."

"In coming through the FinTrU Financial Services Academy with a legal background, I have been provided with the opportunity to embark on additional training and qualifications. I also had the ability to move between different legal roles - subsequently working on site for a client in New York for an extended period. There are career development options available and opportunities to learn from experienced leaders. The fast paced and complex nature of the work offers the opportunity to grow and learn within your role, which is invaluable to find in the modern competitive workplace."

"The opportunity to work alongside some of the world's largest Investment Banks from right here in Northern Ireland"

### **ENHANCING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**

Luke Martin - FinTrU Analyst 2, BSc Finance

### **CAREER LAUNCHPAD**

"After studying Mathematics with Finance at Queen's, I applied for FinTrU in December 2018. I joined the FinTrU Financial Services Belfast Academy, a 6-week training programme, which prepared me prior to joining the company. It was a brilliant experience and during my time in the FinTrU Academy I gained a greater understanding of the different areas within the industry, successfully achieved the first IOC examination, and developed my presentation and Excel skills. I am now part of the Risk team, carrying out a technical role. I am looking forward to continuing the development of my skills and exceling in my career within FinTrU."

> Bernadine Feeney - FinTrU Analyst 2 BSc Mathematics with Finance

### **CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

David Scullion – FinTrU Associate LLM in Corporate Governance



### **PwC IN BELFAST**

PwC NI is the number 1 professional services employer of choice for business students and professionals in Northern Ireland, according to a survey of 1500 people for NIJobs.com. With the firm pressing ahead with plans to open its prestigious Merchant Square headquarters in the centre of Belfast, it's clear why so many people want to join.

PwC in Belfast is the fastestgrowing UK region for the firm, as well as being PwC's largest regional office outside London with a team of over 2,300 people. Belfast is PwC's recognised global centre of excellence for technology, digital advisory services and research.

It would have been easy to batter down the hatches once Covid-19 struck, but PwC has transformed its approach to recruitment, ensuring that the next generation has every opportunity to be part of their immediate plans.

The firm decided that rather than continue with the planned internship programme this year, which would have been restricted due to Covid-19, graduates will now be given a guaranteed place on its training programme starting in the Autumn. It's also now able to increase places on its work experience insight weeks, demonstrating the advantages of working for a firm which has readily embraced technology.

"The insight weeks are some of our most important programmes as one of their priorities is attracting students from lower socio-economic backgrounds," says Student Recruitment lead Deborah Stevenson. "Typically we're limited due to group sizes but as this will now be offered as a virtual experience, we have been able to increase numbers invited in Northern Ireland from 30 to almost 300 students - across the UK that's a total of 5,500.

"Underlining our confidence in the future, we've also sent out guaranteed job offers on our graduate programme to around 400 undergraduate students who were due to join us for an internship this summer. This means the students will enter their final year of university knowing that they have a job at the end of their studies, in what will likely be a challenging environment for new graduates. We decided this was the best solution in recognition of the investment and commitment the students have shown PwC."

A central tenet of the firm's approach is transformation and creativity, and one of the key attributes the firm seeks in its team is Global Acumen. The firm prides itself on offering world-class opportunities to people on their doorstep, and as such having a mind-set that transcends geographic and cultural boundaries is critical. In a continually complex and changing world, it's more important now than ever to see opportunity in change and bring fresh insights to clients.

The firm is guided by a strong sense of its Purpose, which is to "Build trust in society and solve important problems." It has led changes in the business world on

### "PwC in Belfast is the fastestgrowing UK region for the firm"

issues such as flexible working, equal pay, diversity and more. In Belfast, mental health is a particular focus.

One of the things it's done over the past two years was to develop an innovative programme which supports suicide prevention in the city. Through a collaborative approach by funding local charities, it helps the local communities' most vulnerable and marginalised people during a time of crisis. In total, £135,000 has been raised by PwC in Belfast.

All of our graduate opportunities https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers for September 2021 will become live on September 1st. In the meantime, you can check our website for tips on the Employability Hub, where you'll find useful virtual tools to support you to develop key employability skills.

https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/ student-jobs/employability.html



# GRAD GUIDE 2020

### **GRADFEST 2020: STAY THE COURSE**

In these extraordinary circumstances, there's never been a better time to pursue your passion and equip yourself with a future-ready postgraduate gualification.

Right now, you are graduating into a global job market facing unique and particular challenges. Employers are looking for candidates with a recognised go-to qualification, which certifies their exceptional standard of education. A Postgraduate Master's is fastbecoming that qualification.

As part of the Russell Group, we are one of only 24 prestigious, research-intensive universities in the UK – so award-winning teaching and world-class facilities come as part of the package.

We are also at the heart of cultural life in Belfast and the UK's friendliest city with the lowest cost of living for students making Queen's a great place to both live and study.

We have a track record of retaining students who pursue Master's-level study. Of those who started Postgraduate programmes at Queen's in 2018/19, 55 per cent stayed on with us after they graduated with undergraduate degrees from Queen's.

Our Master's programmes offer enhanced critical thinking, real-world work experience, and a result-orientated attitude: skills every workplace increasingly demands.

We deliver 150 Postgraduate programmes; all of which are informed by cutting-edge research and endorsed by global business leaders. This means a Postgraduate degree from Queen's is a mark of distinction and your passport to enhanced employability. Employees with a Master's qualification can command a starting salary up to £7,000 more per year than someone holding a Bachelor's Undergraduate degree.

"Students from Northern Ireland and EU are eligible to apply for a tuition fees loan of up to £5,500. This makes Queen's an affordable and viable investment in your future"

Queen's Graduate School is the best facility in Northern Ireland for Postgraduate learning. It brings Postgraduate-level study within one hub located in the historic Lynn Building. Here, hi-tech meeting rooms, study areas and social spaces buzz with big ideas, challenging debate and collaboration. Our dynamic industry partnerships enable you to gain an edge in the employability market, and provides professional development and networking opportunities with over 3,000 global businesses.

94.1% **OF QUEEN'S POSTGRADUATES** ARE IN EMPLOYMENT **OR FURTHER STUDY 6 MONTHS AFTER** GRADUATION

(HESA Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey, 2016/17)

Postgraduate students at Queen's, are taught through five developmental pillars: Thinker, Communicator, Future-ready, Innovator, and Leader. We support our students through our unique combination of specialist disciplinary study and high-level, transdisciplinary skills training. It's this unique combination of skills and knowledge, that makes Queen's Postgraduate students entrepreneurial thinkers and future-ready.

Stay the course and apply for a Master's from Queen's



## **THINKING ABOUT YOUR NEXT STEP?**

Change your world with a postgraduate qualification and find out how you can benefit from a tuition fee loan of up to £5,500\*

T's & C's Apply

qub.ac.uk/campaign/pg/gradfest





GRADUATE SCHOOL

# Enterprise Podeast Series Coming Soon!

### The Graduate School's Virtual Programme

You may be leaving Queen's, but our careers support and guidance is staying with you. From help to make your big idea a reality to leadership training, the Graduate School has a host of development opportunities available to you.



# **DEVELOP YOUR CAREER AT THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

### SUMMER ENTERPRISE PODCAST

UNIVERSITY

The Graduate School, in partnership with Belfast Design Week, will be launching a brand new podcast series that will celebrate diverse stories of entrepreneurship in Northern Ireland. The series will feature a selection of the start-ups, community-led projects and established businesses we have here that make up our rich ecosystem of innovation. Hear from the entrepreneurs themselves on how they are pivoting current economic challenges and delve deeper into understanding how products and services evolve!

### MAKE IT HAPPEN FUNDING

Would you like up to £500 to make your business idea a reality? You could apply for the 'Make it Happen Fund' and get funding to help start or diversify your business! The fund is available for all undergraduate and postgraduate students at Queen's and the maximum amount you can apply for is £500.

Postgraduate students can join the Graduate School's Enterprise Consultant, Suzanne Walsh for an information session on 24th June to find out more.



### **CMI: ACCREDITED TRAINING OPPORTUNITY OFFERED TO RECENT GRADUATES**

The Graduate School's unique Charted Management Institute programme tailored for postgraduates is designed to help students to develop their leadership and management skills. CMI offers you a unique opportunity to achieve a professional qualification alongside your postgraduate degree, and a step towards becoming a Chartered Manager. The programme is designed to enhance your theoretical understanding and competencies in leadership, project management

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and entrepreneurial practice in an interactive way that allows you to practice new skills. CMI recognises your investment in personal and professional development in strategic thinking at a postgraduate level.

The Level 7 Certificate in Strategic Management and Leadership will be offered to students and recent graduates up to one year after graduation at a competitive price.

To find out more, visit our website or email gs.cmi@qub.ac.uk

# STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Whether you are considering further study, want to develop career confidence or enhance your professional network, let our successful alumni inspire your next move.

### THE PHD STUDENT:



### 'Careers Fairs helped me understand the range of possibilities out there.'

"I enjoyed the lab elements of my undergraduate degree, so I started to look at what a PhD would entail. After attending some talks from pharmaceutical companies, I learnt that having a PhD could improve my employability. It felt like a good transition between undergrad and full-time employment.

"PhD fairs and Career fairs were helpful in understanding the range

of possibilities that were out there as well as improving confidence in my ability to speak and network with others. Additionally, CV appointments were really useful in developing my CV and maximising my employment profile.

"Make use of the resources available to you as these opportunities will allow you to gain valuable skills for the future, give you an opportunity to put yourself out there and allow you to develop confidence and the ability to network with others."

#### Essyrose Mathew,

Bsc Pharmaceutical Sciences, Postgraduate Researcher at Queen's University in the School of Pharmacy

### THE PLACEMENT **TRANSITIONER:**



'Push yourself outside your comfort zone and say yes to opportunities'

"My role is Technical and Performance Coordinator. I am responsible for the continued compliance and process optimisation of water and sewage works sites.

"I completed a year-long placement during my third year at Queen's with Veolia Water UK. During this time, I undertook the role of Process Technologies for five wastewater treatment works. My placement role included different technical tasks from onsite investigation to data reporting.

"At Queen's, I gained Degree Plus through volunteering with the Environmental Leadership Programme. This helped strengthen my CV for work with environmental companies such as Veolia. During my final year, I developed a new and exciting research link between Veolia and Queen's University through the completion of a joint dissertation venture. Maintaining this relationship with the water industry during my final year, enhanced my technical learning.

"My advice is to push yourself outside your comfort zone and say yes to all opportunities, making sure to put in the effort and build your CV. A placement helps you understand which industries within your degree you like and dislike. Talk with your lecturers and use all resources Queen's departments makes available as these will help improve your grades and guide you through your degree."

Emma Webster, BSc Biochemistry with Professional Studies Municipal Wastewater Technical Direction Team, Veolia Water UK

### MORE ONLINE HERE

#### THE BARRISTER:

### 'There is a wealth of careers advice available'



"I am a self-employed barrister at the Bar of Northern Ireland. I always wanted a career in law and focused on developing the right skills to ensure that I was able to strive to achieve my end goal. I attended a Careers Fairs to speak with recruiters and some of the 'Magic Circle' law firms to get an understanding of the specific skillset that required to be successful in interviews.

"I also constantly checked on the MyFuture platform to find opportunities that would help me enhance my skill set and develop personal confidence. I always attended Careers Fairs and I encouraged my friends to do the same. Events like these offer a great opportunity for networking and gaining an insight into a profession and the daily life of those within it.

**MORE ONLINE HERE** 

They are also useful to be aware of what skills employers are looking for.

"I also used the Careers service for a CV check and for interview skills- I would definitely recommend this to all students, no matter your degree pathway! MyFuture is one of the best resources available It is constantly updated with opportunities to help you improve your employability and personal skills.

I found the Careers, Employability and Skills at Queen's invaluable. There is a wealth of resources available, as well as dedicated individuals who are there to offer one-on-one help and advice."

Aoife Marken, Law LLB, International Business Law LLM, Professional Legal Studies **PGDip** Barrister

#### THE EXPAT:

'If you don't like where you are and what you are doing - change it'



"I work as a business developer in Australia for a cyber security company. Personal confidence helped me get where I am. Have the confidence to move abroad and experience different things. If you don't like where you are and what you are doing - change it. While at Queen's, I studied abroad in Paris and took part in the Brussels EU study tour.

"Don't waste opportunities to boost your CV. If you can, take the option of a year abroad - it'll be the best year of your life."

Tomas Curran, BSc International **Business with French Business Development** Representative, Ground Labs, Sydney

### THE ASSESSMENT CENTRE SUCCESS:



'The Careers Service developed my confidence and my skills'

"I am a contract analyst with Factor (formerly Axiom Managed

Solutions) in Belfast. I met an Axiom recruiter at a Careers fair at Queen's and made the effort to stay in touch with company recruiters. When I graduated, I reconnected with the company recruiters on LinkedIn and found out about the next upcoming assessment days for positions in their Belfast office. After being successful in the assessment process, I was offered a full-time agency position, I received a lot of internal support and mentorship before being offered a permanent role in the company.

"As a postgraduate student at Queen's, I developed my personal confidence and professional skills by participating in as many careers opportunities as possible. I became very aware of the wealth of resources available within the Careers Service and in the Student Guidance Centre.

Attending employability events and programmes helped me stand out from my peers and raised my profile as a well-rounded graduate entering the global workforce. The one-to-one CV appointments, the Careers resources on the website and Careers app helped me along my student journey to find the best employment opportunities and prepare for my interviews."

Dr Maria M. A. Pimentel-Mackle, Juris Doctor, School Of Law Contract Analyst, Factor (formerly Axiom Managed Solutions)

### THE QUEEN'S EMPLOYEE:



### 'Learn and experiment - it will lead you to new people and places'

"I am currently working at INTO Queen's. My day-to-day duties involve providing customer service to international students, assisting teachers with the preparation and dissemination of exam papers, overseeing the ordering of stationary materials for the centre and textbooks for students and most importantly monitoring students' attendance on a weekly and monthly basis.

"I have always been keen to take part in Queen's Career Development Programmes. They helped me to move a step forward in my career development. I took part in skills building workshops and CV clinics in my undergraduate years. The skills and confidence gained at these sessions significantly contributed to my job success during my postgraduate

years which acted as catalyst to keep taking part in extracurricular activities during my postgraduate years. What's more, they enabled me to discover my passion in life which is helping students academically.

"My advice is to learn and experiment to your heart's content - this will give you a wide range of experiences which will ultimately lead you to people and places that you will find enjoyable."

Tsvyata G Donova, PhD Psychology Academic Support Team, INTO Queen's

### THE SANDWICH YEAR STUDENT:

### 'You don't realise how much employability skills can help with interviews'



"I completed my placement in Almac Sciences between second and third year of uni and then came back once I finished my degree. I got so much out of my

### **MORE ONLINE HERE**

placement and got a job from it at the end of it all.

"The Careers service at Queen's were very helpful in providing guidance prior to my interview and I am grateful for the careers sessions we had scheduled in our second year timetable, as they provided me with confidence for going into the workplace.

"Throughout uni I was also able to develop my employability skills through clubs and societies and on campus jobs.

"My advice is to get involved. You maybe don't realise how it helps you when it comes to going for interviews and entering the workplace. You develop your employability skills a significant amount!"

Jamie Davison, BSc Pharmaceutical Sciences (Sandwich) Analytical Chemist, Almac Sciences.

### THE CV MAKEOVER:

'I restructured my CV to better succeed at interview'



"I completed a placement year at Almac following my second year of degree and prior to the final year. This experience was very advantageous in my career life so far. Not only did it provide a job immediately after graduation, but also gave an insight into how a pharmaceutical industry operates. I was more aware of what roles and opportunities are available within pharmaceutical firms, which in turn helped and continues to guide my decision on what exactly I want to achieve in my career.

"In my final year, I was stuck between deciding whether I wanted to return to industry or continue in academia by pursuing a PhD. I had experience in industry, but I wanted to know more about opportunities for research within the university, so l attended a Postgraduate Open Day held at Queen's. I found this event very helpful, particularly regards improving my CV.

"I also booked several appointments for a CV check prior to applying for placement opportunities and PhD opportunities. The guidance I received was very helpful as I got constructive feedback on how to restructure my CV and personal statement to better succeed at receiving an interview.

"My main advice would be to use the careers guidance available at Queen's. The CV check and mock online interview resources are very helpful in preparing for graduate jobs."

Ciyana James, **BSc Pharmaceutical Science** (Sandwich) Analytical Chemist, Almac Sciences, Craigavon

# GRADUATE EXIT **SURVEY**

It is essential that we understand the challenges and the scope of the potential issues facing our 2020 graduates, especially with the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Careers, Employability and Skills (CES) are working in partnership with the Schools, the Graduate School and the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) to deliver an exit survey of students due to graduate this summer. The purpose of the survey is to provide us with relevant up-to-date data on the destinations and intentions of the 2020 cohort after graduation and to understand what further support you require.

The survey is fully endorsed by the University's senior management and the Schools.

The Survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete and your response is completely confidential. Results are reported by subject and School and not at the level of the individual.

By completing the survey you will automatically be entered into our prize draw with the chance of winning one of three £100 Amazon or Argos vouchers.

### The survey will remain open until 30 June 2020.

### **ALUMNI INSPIRATION**

ALUMNUS AZHAR MURTAZA IS THE DIRECTOR OF VEGAN DRINKS COMPANY BORN MAVERICK. HE INITIALLY PRESENTED HIS BUSINESS CONCEPT TO ENTERPRISE SU AT QUEEN'S, WHERE HE RECEIVED MENTORSHIP AND GUIDANCE TO LAUNCH HIS BRAND. As the director of Born Maverick, Oueen's alum Azhar Murtaza. from India, has faced his fair share of challenges. Food technologists questioned whether a vegan brand had sustainability in Northern Ireland, then there was the issue of how to package a vegan drink when your brand values are based around ecofriendliness. Shunning plastic bottles in favour of compostable and biodegradable sachets, Azhar has proved the doubters wrong, building a successful, ethical beverage brand and scooping accolades including Student Invent Finalist; Queen's Dragons' Den Finalist and a Belfast Business Idea Awards 2019 Top 5 finalist.



"Nothing can stop you, if you accept challenge and adapt"



He urges graduates of 2020 to lean into change in order to cope with challenges.

"Change is the

only constant and being able to adapt to those changes is what defines us," he says. "That principle has got me through all the challenges that were thrown at me, right from the moment I landed in Belfast to study a Master's at Queen's. Nothing can stop you if you are willing to accept and adapt."

Like many graduates, Azhar wasn't sure where his career path would take him, but hoped a Master's from Queen's would help him pursue his passions. "I chose a university which would allow me to explore different aspects of my interests in science, business and art. I wasn't sure where I was headed, but all I knew was that I would accept the challenges and give it my best."

He adds, "We are all in the same boat right now, plans and dreams on hold, as a result of the pandemic. But we are all in this together and we will prevail if we are willing to accept the challenge and adapt accordingly."

#### Develop networking confidence

While at Queen's, Azhar blended his love of biotechnology and business to begin to shape his career path. "I was helped a lot by <u>Enterprise SU</u> in defining my own career growth. As an introvert, I would usually have taken a step back from presenting myself and

**MORE ONLINE HERE** 

my ideas but through mentoring sessions and workshops, I was able to develop my confidence to put myself out there and present on various platforms."

Rather than being solely purely goal-orientated, Azhar developed softer skills that he has carried with him into his career. "I learned that winning is a by-product: being able to express yourself and to utilise your network is what matters. I was reaching finals of various business competitions but never able to cross the line into first place. However, those competitions were putting me in front of the right bunch of people. Ultimately, I gained contacts and experience worth more than any prize money."

It was while he was competing in the <u>Queen's Dragons' Den</u> final that he was offered an opportunity with Invest NI. "I lost the competition, but Invest NI offered me a place on their programme and Born Maverick Vegan Beverages Ltd was born."

### Innovation in action

The company owns the Púr brand of vegan drinks made with whole grain and finger millet, and are developing vegan non-alcoholic popsicles, fortified with vitamin D, and in flavours including Gin & Tonic, Prosecco, Irish Whiskey and Coffee.

"Both these product lines have been formulated with the help of food scientists at <u>CAFRE</u> using Innovation Vouchers from Invest NI," says Azhar, whose ideas keep on coming.

"I am also working on a R&D project developing vegan eggs from mung beans along with <u>Campden BRI</u> and I am in an ideation phase of developing vegan prawns from seaweeds. In the coming years, we aim to represent Northern Ireland in food innovation on a global platform and lead consumers here towards living an ethically healthy life," he adds.

### Advice for new graduates

While Azhar acknowledges that this year is particularly challenging for graduates, there is still space for innovation, creativity and strategy. "These are challenging times and quite different to when I was about to graduate myself, but there is still scope for constant innovation." He urges graduates to seek support from Queen's, <u>Invest</u> <u>NI. Catalyst Inc</u> and <u>Belfast City</u> <u>Council</u> who are at the heart of innovation in the region.

"Patience and perseverance pay off eventually," he adds. "As a student, I made sacrifices to help me achieve my dream, like working nights at KFC and Tesco's to free me up to attend workshops and business meetings during the day. I found out that there is so much support available within Northern Ireland for innovative small businesses. Reach out to Enterprise SU, The Graduate School and Queen's <u>Careers, Employability and Skills</u> team."

He adds, "I wish you all the best as you graduate this year. I am sure this phase is going to help many to reflect. Now is the time to rebuild, restructure and plan according to your goals. As they say, when going gets tough, the tough gets going. There is a world of opportunity if you are willing to explore beyond your immediate circle."

### WELCOME TO THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ALUMNI COMMUNITY!

As you transition to life after University during these uncertain times, Queen's is here to support you and continue what we hope will be a lifelong relationship with the University which will be managed with you on our behalf by the Development and Alumni Relations Office.

Queen's is still here for you and below are a list of some of the benefits available to you that mean it's worth staying connected by telling us how to communicate with you:

- Careers Support The Careers Employability and Skills team offers a full programme of support to all new graduates for the first two years after graduation and a lifetime of access to our career facilities. We also offer a range of volunteering opportunities to help enhance your CV and develop new skills.
- Stay Connected We have an active presence on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter and our monthly enewsletter, the eGraduate, and annual printed magazine, The Graduate, are filled with news, events, graduate profiles, competitions and benefits for you. Find your perfect way to stay connected to the University, your school and fellow graduates.
- Networking and Events As a member of the Alumni community you'll receive exclusive e-notification inviting you to a range of events taking place on and off campus including seminars, reunions and other networking events. And why not take advantage of alumni career mentoring opportunities or join alumni associations?

• Campus Discounts – Continue to benefit from campus facilities after graduating. The Library, Accommodation Office and Queen's Sport all offer discounted rates for graduates. We also offer alumni discounts on some of our further study opportunities.

Please remember to keep the Development and Alumni Office informed of your contact information (email/phone/postal address) at all times to ensure these opportunities are provided to you. To update them simply email **alumni@qub.ac.uk** or register <u>here</u> for Queen's Alumn for Queen's Alumni Online where you can view and amend your own record.

Good luck with the next steps in your career. Please stay in touch, we look forward to celebrating your success with you!

<u>Click here</u> for more information on the support available

**MORE ONLINE HERE** 

### CAREER NETWORKING EVENING WITH QUEEN'S ALUMNI GUEST SPEAKERS Book to attend via MyFuture

DATE: 22 JUNE 2020 TIME: 6PM -7.20PM

An opportunity to network with Queen's alumni and hear inspirational stories from Queen's graduates about their personal career journeys in the UK and internationally. Find out how the COVID 19 crisis is affecting graduate recruitment and the importance of staying positive and adapting to change in the current graduate labour market.

The event will introduce you to Four Panel members:

**Panelist 1:** An experienced graduate from a non-vocational degree pathway (e.g. Geography, Psychology, HAPP, AEL, Sociology/Criminology). Hear about their personal career journey, get tips on how to develop professional networks, how to be flexible in the workplace and how to and meet the changing needs of graduate employers.

**Panelist 2:** A graduate recruiter will provide insights into what they look for from their current graduate hires, how the COVID 19 crisis is changing their business in the short and long term and



how that might impact on what they will look for in their new recruits in the future.

**Panelist 3:** A Queen's graduate entrepreneur. Get an insight into their mindset, tips on how to start your own business and how to look for new opportunities and overcome challenges in the face of COVID 19.

**Panelist 4:** An international alumnus. Advice for UK/Ireland graduates who are considering working overseas and tips for international students who are returning to their home country to find a graduate role.



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