

Careers Service FAQs

For Prospective Students

Newcastle University Careers Service is here to help you think about what you gain from your degree and how you can add to your university experience in order to create the best circumstances for success upon graduation.

Our key message is to get involved in all aspects of university life from day one!

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What does the Careers Service do?

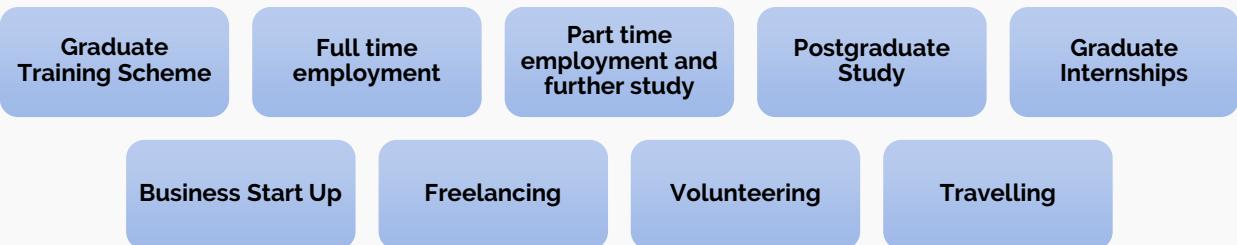
Newcastle University provides a range of services for students coming to our institution and for three years after you graduate. Our aim is to enhance your understanding of your strengths and provide opportunities to develop your skills, experience and contacts. We do this by supporting you to explore your career path, find work, start a business or independent career, pursue further study or develop your skills and experience through tailored support and fantastic opportunities and initiatives.

Our service provides: bespoke, one-to-one careers information, advice and guidance; start-up and self-employment support; workshops, events and resources; academic modules; peer support and mentorship; vacancies, work experience and career development initiatives. The Careers Service can be accessed from anywhere in the world over the phone or online via MyCareer.

Take a look at this [short video](#) for more information.

What options are there after university?

You will have a range of career options after having completed your degree. The route you choose to go down will depend on what you are interested in and where you see your career progressing. There may be several different paths relevant to your goals and our Careers Service team is here to help you explore them all. Some common next steps for our graduates include:



What jobs can I do with my degree?

With a degree from Newcastle University, you have a huge range of employment possibilities, irrespective of the subject you choose. Whilst studying at university you will gain subject-specific knowledge from your degree, but you will also gain transferable skills and experiences that are sought after in many different graduate professions. It is this combination that will define what you can do with your degree. This means you have lots of options open to you but if you would like a starting point Prospects have put together an introductory guide to many degree subjects and common job roles where your degree may be relevant or useful. As this list is not exhaustive, we encourage you to start thinking about your strengths and what you want to do, rather than trying to limit yourself to what you can do. The sooner you start considering this, the sooner you can start to develop your skills, experience and contacts throughout university, so you are able to take your degree in your preferred direction after university.

We can support you with this reflection through 1-2-1 careers support and by providing access to services to build your work experience and contacts.

How can I gain work experience at university?

Gaining experience outside of your degree is key to enhancing your career prospects after graduation, but it is also a great way to get involved in university life and make new friends. Work experience is an umbrella term that can cover most positions of responsibilities or experience of a working environment. This means that activities such as volunteering, internships, insight days, part time work and placements all count as work experience. The Careers Service is here to help facilitate access to opportunities. For example, we manage term-time and vacation internships for roles on campus, as well as with local businesses. These paid opportunities often comprise of a 50-100 hour project that you can complete around your studies and are available in a range of different disciplines. You can read [more about internships here](#) and [take a look at our experience directory](#) which showcases the previous opportunities students have undertaken.

These internships are advertised through our internal careers portal 'MyCareer' where students can also access a range of other work experience opportunities. There is also a range of initiatives students can get involved in across the university such as the Students' Union Volunteer service which partners with over 150 charities, schools, community, and voluntary groups to offer a diverse range of opportunities. [Find out more about Volunteer with NUSU.](#)

If you are unsure of what experience to gain or where to search, our Information Advisers and Careers Consultants will be here throughout your time at university help you.

Can I do a placement year with my degree?

You can choose to integrate a placement year into the vast majority of our undergraduate degree programmes at Newcastle University, even if you didn't originally apply for one through UCAS. You will go out on placement after your penultimate year of study, extending your degree programme by one year. You will complete a module to reflect on your placement experience and will be assigned a Placement Adviser who will support you in the transition to your placement year and throughout your year in industry. You can [find more information about placement years](#) on our website and [hear about some of our student's placement year experiences.](#)

Will you help me secure a placement year?

While it's your responsibility to search and apply for placements, you'll receive plenty of support along the way from the Careers Service to help you find opportunities and make effective applications. We encourage you to search for placements yourself, to introduce you to the intricacies of the graduate labour market and help prepare you for your next steps after university.

One way to find a placement is by applying for advertised opportunities. The Careers Service advertises placements on our vacancy site, MyCareer, but you can also find adverts on websites designed for students like, [Rate My Placement](#), [Gradcracker](#) and [Bright Network](#) to name just a few.

Another way of finding a placement is by seeking out hidden opportunities through speculative applications. In fact, many students create work placement opportunities for themselves through networking and making contacts, or by developing their own business ideas. If you have identified a company you would like to work for, you could try approaching them directly about possible opportunities. [Take a look at our website for more guidance on finding a placement year.](#)

Will the Careers Service help me find a part-time job?

Part-time work is a great way to gain experience, develop valuable skills, meet new people and earn money. We support you to access part-time roles both on and off campus. You will find vacancies for local part-time work through our careers portal 'MyCareer'. These typically include adverts for traditional 'student jobs' such as retail and hospitality roles, but we also advertise opportunities and paid internships that may be more directly related to your field of study.

The Careers Service also facilitates student access to short-term jobs across the university, from clerical work and catering assistance to cleaning and events support and you can choose roles that fit with your interests and availability around your studies. More information about [part time work](#) and our [on campus opportunities](#) can be found on our website.

I want to set up a business or freelance, will you help with this?

Whether you want to explore ideas, go freelance or start a business, our START UP team can help you at every stage, from pre-idea to launch and beyond. With coaching from our expert START UP Advisers, who run their own businesses and portfolio careers, plus workshops, socials, peer-learning groups, mentorship, equity-free grant funding and further opportunities designed to help you lead a successful self-employed career we can help you create your own opportunities.

START UP also holds regular workshops and events to help you develop your business knowledge and ideas, gain the skills and confidence to launch a successful start-up or freelance career and meet like-minded entrepreneurs and creatives within the START UP community. Find out more about our #StartedatNCL community [here](#).

What if I don't like my course?

Coming to university is a big transition and it is not uncommon to have doubts about taking this step or your choice of course. If you find yourself in this situation, there is a range of academic and pastoral support available from your personal tutor and the teams within Student Services. Here in the Careers Service, we can help you talk through your alternative options within Newcastle University, as well as explore avenues outside of university.

You will have access to one-to-one careers counselling with our consultants and we encourage you to speak with your course tutors, as well as friends and family. We also have [guidance online to help you reflect on any concerns](#) you may have.

How can I keep in touch with the Careers Service?

As you prepare to come to university, you can keep up to date with all that is happening in the Careers Service through our social media channels, website and blog. You can also ask us any questions through our [Unibuddy profile here](#). We aim to respond to all question in 3-5 working days.

[Careers Service Website](#)

[Newcastle University Experience Blog](#)

[Careers Service YouTube Channel](#)

Careers Service Social Media

[Instagram](#)

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