

Attending a recruitment fair

Recruitment fairs give you the chance to meet employers face to face, find out more about them and learn about their current vacancies, work experience and insight programmes. They are aimed at students at all stages, not just finalists. Recruitment fairs consist of employer stands that you can visit, usually manned by their graduate recruitment team; so making a good first impression is important.

Preparing for the fair

- Research employers that are attending and decide which ones you want to visit. A list of those attending is posted on the Careers Service website several weeks beforehand. Find out the basics such as opportunities available, entry requirements and skills sought. This will mean you can focus on more specific points when speaking with each employer.
 - Think of some questions to ask them in advance – what would you like to know more about?
 - Keep up to date with sector news.
 - Think about the skills and experience you have so you can mention these to the employer.
 - Bring something to make notes on.
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At the fair

- Ask the questions you've prepared in advance.
 - If one of the representatives on the stand is a recent graduate, ask how they found their first year and what sort of projects/work they've been involved in.
 - Use this opportunity to find out information about their company that you can't get from their website, such as: the culture of the organisation; what they particularly like about working there; what would make you stand out in applications/interviews?
 - If possible, get named contacts from employers you are interested in.
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International Students

- Find out in advance which employers recruit international students; see the list of sponsors below.
 - Interviews are not held and job offers are not made on the day.
 - Employers are unlikely to accept CVs and will usually direct you to their online processes instead.
 - Don't make work visas your first question to employers. It's important to demonstrate your interest in their opportunities/roles and what you could bring to the company, not that you're just looking for an employer who sponsors visas. You can then approach the subject, but be aware that some representatives may not know the answers to visa queries.
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What not to do

- X Just collect free gifts!
 - X Go to each stand with a big group of friends.
 - X Ask something you can easily find on their website.
 - X Go to a stand without a question in mind.
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Further information

-  Information on upcoming recruitment fairs and a list of employers attending:
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/events/recruitmentFairs>
-  Research employers: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/jobs/ResearchingEmployers.php>
-  Information on working in the UK for international students:
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/explore/international/after.php>
-  List of all UK employers who can sponsor international students:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/register-of-licensed-sponsors-workers>

Need more help?

Call into the Careers Service to speak to an information officer if you need help preparing for the fair.