Back on Campus

Finance and Banking
5 November 2014

Room 706,
Sir Duncan Rice Library
Making the most of your CV

10.00 – 11.00

**Careers Service and Andrew Southall, Delivery Lead (Financial Services & Consumer), IMSworldwide**

For those of you who are preparing to apply for summer internships and graduate roles, come along to find out how to make the most of your experiences when creating a CV. Andrew Southall, Aberdeen graduate, and who is currently working in recruitment in London, will be there to offer his personal advice and guidance before speaking later in the day.

Asset management: a rewarding and exciting career choice

11.00 – 12.00

**Alex Barr, Head of Private Equity Investments, Aberdeen Asset Management**

Alex will discuss building a career in asset management, offering candid thoughts on the decision points he faced along the way, what worked well, and what he might have done differently. He will look at the attributes a good investor needs, and highlight the importance of other non-investment roles in this industry. Alex will also cover the strategic drivers and opportunities that are currently shaping this now very global industry. The session should provide stimulating advice for today’s Aberdeen students who are considering an asset management path.

Is there life in financial services after an MA?

12.00 – 13.00

**Gillian Hepburn, Director, Quality Platform Solutions**

After completing an MA in English in 1988, Gillian ‘fell into’ financial services and is still there successfully running her own business and working with companies such as Legal & General, Aegon, Standard Life plus a range of asset managers and investment platforms. She will talk about her career path (including juggling family life and further study!) and also discuss the challenges and the benefits of working in financial services.

A brief summary of financial services and how graduates fit into the picture

14.00 – 15.00

**Andrew Southall, Delivery Lead (Financial Services & Consumer), IMSworldwide**

The financial services industry has spent the last six years going through an incredible amount of change, bringing with it a new environment for today’s graduates to navigate. Having worked for specialist consultancies since graduating, Andrew has been involved in the evolution of investment banks, retail banks and insurers as they adapt to the new marketplace. As part of his work, Andrew has been responsible for managing recruitment and aims to take soon-to-be graduates through what financial services requires of them and how they can get the most of it.
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Alex Barr, MA(Hons) Economics and Accountancy (1992)
Alex joined Aberdeen Asset Management in 2005 and is a senior member of the investment team responsible for managing a range of mandates including Aberdeen Private Equity Fund Ltd. Alex has 20 years’ investment experience and prior to Aberdeen, worked at Morgan Grenfell (subsequently Deutsche Asset Management), Henderson Investors and Templeton. Alex graduated with an MA in Economics and Accountancy from the University of Aberdeen and is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment. He sits on the advisory boards of a number of investee funds.

Gillian Hepburn, MA(Hons) English (1988)
Gillian Hepburn graduated from the University of Aberdeen in 1988 with an MA in English and joined Standard Life on their graduate management scheme. Following completion of this, she worked in a range of roles across Service Division, Marketing and Sales. She completed her MBA through the Open University in 1998 and her last key role at Standard Life was as the Business Development Manager for their Investment platform covering Scotland, Northern Ireland plus some major accounts such as Royal Bank of Scotland. In 2010, she then moved briefly to work for a Discretionary Investment Management business as an Associate Director and in 2011 set up her own consultancy business. She now works for a range of major financial product providers, financial advisers and asset managers. Gillian is married with two children and in her spare time is President for the largest swimming club in Scotland.

Andrew Southall, MA(Hons) Economics (2011)
Andrew read Economics at the University of Aberdeen, graduating in 2011 with an Upper Second Class Honours. He immediately moved down to London, taking up a role managing the Project Management Office for an international IT Consultancy working across regulatory services and investment banking. Since leaving that position, Andrew has provided his services as an Interim Business Consultant across insurance, wealth management and banking. In his current role, he works for a medium-sized consultancy on-site at Lloyds Banking Group managing the delivery of consultants across the group including retail banking, capital markets, insurance, wealth, digital, PPI, regulatory, payments and others.

www.abdn.ac.uk/backoncampus
The Co-Curriculum

What is it, and how can it work for you?
The co-curriculum is, in essence, an enhancement of your student experience. It’s about providing you with opportunities, such as work placements and study abroad that will enhance your transferable skills and give you an edge in the graduate market.

STAR Award
The STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Award is organised by the University’s Careers Service. This initiative rewards the contribution that many students make to the wider University community by recognising the transferable skills and competencies that you develop during a volunteering role. These skills can really enhance your employability.
Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/star-award

Work Experience Placements
The Careers Service’s Work Placement Team sources a range of placements for penultimate year undergraduates. In 2013 we were named ‘Placement of the Year [Public Sector]’ by the National Council for Work Experience. We aim to help you find and apply for positions that will benefit your degree studies. We also provide support while you are in your placement.
Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/jobs-work-experience/vacation-work-internships-placements

Study Abroad
The University actively encourages students to undertake a period of study abroad as part of their degree programme, and a wide range of opportunities exist within our Erasmus programme, which boasts 150+ links with universities across Europe, and our International Exchange Programme where partnerships exist with universities in North America and Asia.
Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/study-abroad-and-exchanges

Career Mentoring
The University’s Career Mentoring Programme is offered jointly by the Careers Service and the Alumni Relations Team. All current undergraduate and taught postgraduate students are welcome to apply. Mentoring is a great way to receive relevant careers advice and support by meeting with a working professional, who can offer a fresh perspective on your talents and how you can build on them. Your mentor is able to provide you with the benefit of their experience in a particular profession or employment area, giving you an insight into the wider knowledge and skills you will need to succeed.
Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/career-mentoring

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
The Careers Service is aware of the importance to graduate employers of an enterprising attitude within business and the additional desire of many students to create their own businesses. We work closely with external agencies, such as the Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) and Scotland UnLtd, to promote opportunities for all students across the campus.
Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/enterprise-entrepreneurship

BP Student Tutoring
The BP Student Tutoring Scheme is a volunteering initiative that lets you try something you might not otherwise have the opportunity to do. Students volunteer in local primary and secondary schools in Aberdeen city and shire, working alongside the class teacher for one half-day per week for eight weeks. Student tutoring demonstrates to employers that you are keen to take the initiative, to contribute to the next generation and to work with the wider community outside university.
Please visit: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/careers/skills-attributes/bp-student-tutoring-scheme

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