

# CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY SERVICE

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## EXPLORE | DEVELOP | CONNECT

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### Welcome Back!

It is fair to say that the impact of the coronavirus pandemic made the 2019 - 2020 academic year far from typical. Like much of the business community in mid-March the Careers and Employability team packed up their desks, said goodbye to the office and hello to home working. Whilst we got our heads round our new working life we began to think about how we could adapt our service to support our students, graduates and employer partners through the constantly evolving and uncertain 'new normal'. We made rethinking our service offering a priority, immediately moving advisor appointments to a virtual platform and enhancing our online resources.

Acknowledging the many and complex challenges the pandemic had brought we sought to ensure that students and graduates continued to have the opportunity to develop and reflect upon their employability skills despite their work circumstances and to connect with and learn from employers. From this, the Employability Boost Award comprising of live workshops and events, careers mini courses and sector insights, was developed and launched in May with an exceptional number of students gaining either a Bronze Silver or Gold award. Thank you to all of our employers who helped and contributed to this programme.

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### Connect with our Students: October Employability Boost

Aberdeen   
Employability  
Boost Award

Following the success and positive feedback from both Students and Employer Partners we are pleased to be running our month long Employability Boost programme twice during the 2020/2021 Academic year, in October and February. The programme offers employers the ability to connect with our current students to help them develop their employability skills and gain an insight into what these skills mean to employers and the wider world of work.

The design and flexibility of this programme means that there are a number of opportunities to connect with an engaged student audience through employer led sessions. We are looking for employers to contribute to a range of Skills Workshops and Sector insights sessions covering the following topics:

What is... personal branding	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 10am - 11am
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Environment sector insights - employers	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am - 11.30am
Energy sector insights - employers	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Digital sector insights - employers	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October, 10.30am - 11.30am
Resilience	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October, 3pm - 4pm
Networking	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 11am
Life Sciences sector insights - employers	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 1pm - 2pm
Finance sector insights - employers	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October, 1pm - 2pm
Law sector insights - employers	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 11am
What is... commercial awareness	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October, 3pm - 4pm
Virtual recruitment practices	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October, 10am - 11am
Assessment centres	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October, 2.30pm - 3.30pm
Enterprise and entrepreneurship	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 11am - 12 noon
Diversity and inclusive recruitment	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October, 11am - 12 noon

This is also a fantastic opportunity for employers to host their own recruitment presentations and would very much welcome the opportunity to discuss the programme and your student engagement and recruitment needs further.

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## Virtually working: Lessons from starting a new job in lockdown



Our Student Assistant, Cristina, has written a fantastic blog about her experience starting her job just as the country went into lockdown. As her original role was mainly reception-based, the job was quickly adapted for online delivery, and she adapted with it.

Read about her experience and the advice she gives to anyone starting a new job online <https://lnkd.in/gHfp32w>.

We've been amazed at how well our Student Assistant has settled in despite the challenges of virtual induction. We'd love to hear how other employers have found the virtual onboarding experience and any top tips you may have.

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## Engaging with our Students

The university recognises that this is a challenging time for employers and that many may be rethinking engagement and recruitment strategies. We want to reassure you that we are committed to working with our employer partners to ensure that you remain connected

with our students and emerging talent pipeline. Highlighted below are some of the key employability initiatives we offer and details of how you can get involved. Should you wish to discuss your organisations needs please do get in touch.

The University of Aberdeen provides a number of opportunities for you to connect with our students. For example you could deliver an event on-campus, provide one-to-one mentoring or contribute to the development of employability in degree programmes.

## CAREER MENTORING



Do you want to inspire others by passing on your unique experiences, career knowledge and expertise? The University of Aberdeen Career Mentoring Programme can give you the opportunity to support our students in developing their own career ideas.

Find out how to get involved: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/business-info/working-with-students/career-mentoring.php>

## STAR AND LEADERSHIP

The University's STAR (Students Taking Active Roles) Award and Leadership Academy aim to maximise student employability by developing their skills and Aberdeen Graduate Attributes. The STAR Award allows students to enhance and gain recognition for the skills they develop through a wide range of approved roles while the Leadership Academy enables participants to develop their personal leadership skills and attributes. Both initiatives consistently attract high-calibre students from across all years of study and subjects areas, with several hundred students taking part in each academic year.



A key aspect of these flagship initiatives is the contribution employers make by delivering workshops. Topics could include any aspects of leadership such as strategic planning, motivational skills, team work or dealing with conflict as well as wider-ranging skills sessions on presentation skills, networking, time management or practical training on interviews or assessment centres.

### Benefits to you

- Increase your organisation's profile on campus
- Interact and network with a breadth of highly engaged and motivated students
- Continued professional development for you/your staff
- A sense of satisfaction to know you are actively helping students' employability!

Further information can be found via: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/business-info/working-with-students/the-star-award-828.php>

## Student Recruitment



Our free Career Connect jobs portal allows you to advertise graduate jobs, placements, internships and part-time jobs directly to our students and graduates. We can also work with you to understand your recruitment needs and ensure your messages get to the right student audience. You can create a profile and post roles here:

<https://abdn.targetconnect.net/unauthorisedEmployer/register.html?execution=e1s1>

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EMAIL: [Careers@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:Careers@abdn.ac.uk)

