

ALUMNI ADVICE

What is your current job role?

Assistant Economist at the Department for International Trade

What was your journey to this route?

BA Economics and Politics @ University of Sheffield, MA International Political Economy at King's College London

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

Student Policy Analyst at UN Habitat 3 Conference funded by the university of Sheffield. I was also a Student Radio Presenter and did part time work as a Barista.

What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Make the most of all the extracurricular experiences available to you, whether that be part-time work or internships, volunteering, student competitions, or university student societies. Qualifications may get you a seat in the interview room, but once you're in there you'll need something else to talk about to demonstrate what kind of person you are and what skills or abilities you will bring to a given job role.

KNOW YOURSELF,
GIVE YOURSELF TIME.

AIDAN KIDDER - Leaver 2014



What is your current job role?

Full-time Student at The University of Sheffield

What was your journey to this route?

I finished my A-Levels and started an apprenticeship at an accounting firm, but it wasn't really for me. Luckily I had applied to university during my time at sixth form and had received a place at the university of Sheffield to study Maths which I had deferred so I handed in my notice and started university in September 2018. I am now going into my second year and absolutely love it. I now want to become a maths teacher when I graduate.

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

I worked part-time during my A-levels in various retail and customer service roles as well as the year I spent in an apprenticeship. I believe these give me that help when I'm job interviews you're asked for times when you have shown you've handled tricky situations, have worked under pressure and shown initiative, etc, which are all key questions to expect to be asked. Since I started sixth form I have tutored GCSE maths and continue to do so whilst at university. This is more valuable to me now knowing I want to become a teacher and gives me great experience which I believe will make me more employable and stand out amongst others competing for graduate teaching roles.

What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Either volunteer or find a job you can do part-time. The most important life lesson I've learnt so far is that sometimes your ideal job does not turn out to be what you actually want to do in the future and volunteering for example in that sector gives you an opportunity to see if you like it and also gain work experience necessary for job interviews in the future. But remember there's nothing wrong with deciding you don't like the role and changing your mind.

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH CHANGING YOUR MIND.

ALISHA WILSON - Leaver 2017



What was your journey to this route?

Two years of Maths at University and one year studying AAT

What is your current job role?

Divisional Finance Assistant

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

Wickersley hold a careers day for every year group which I would really recommend taking advantage of. It gave me an idea of what interviews would be like, what kind of questions would be asked and showed me what areas I could improve. This definitely prepared me and made me feel much more confident for real interviews.

What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Don't quit your sports. When applying for jobs employers are looking for something that makes you stand out. Playing a sport shows commitment to a team and good time management skills, in addition to being a great study break!

Any further advice?

Look into all the options for life after sixth form even if you're set on going to university. There are so many great alternatives out there which can get you to the same place as a degree would. And even if you don't choose any of them it will help solidify your choice to go to university!

LOOK INTO ALL THE
OPTIONS.

CHLOE MYERS - Leaver 2016



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What is your current job role?

Risk Assurance Manager

What was your journey to this route?

After finishing school I did a history degree at the University of Manchester. I then joined a graduate scheme with PWC when finishing university and have been with them ever since.

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

The majority of the skills needed to do my job are soft skills - the ability to listen is extremely important. In particular, university helped me to build these skills - not just because of the academic side but also the social side - joining societies, making new friends & arguing over whose turn it was to do the dishes all help you to develop valuable communication skills!

What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Try to really think about developing your own soft skills - in particular, try to listen to other people with empathy. It's amazing how much further you can get if people genuinely believe you are interested in a conversation rather than going through the motions.

Any further advice?

Work isn't everything - take time to do other things you want to do! Save some money and travel the world, volunteer for a cause that matters to you, learn to tap dance. Success should be measured by how happy and fulfilling your life is and not by how much money you earn!

VOLUNTEER FOR A
CAUSE THAT MATTERS TO
YOU!

MATTHEW PLUMMER - Leaver 2008



What was your journey to this route?

BA (Hons) French and Spanish (University of Manchester, 2017), MA in Editorial Translation (French and English into Spanish) (University of Murcia, 2018)

What is your current job role?

English as a Foreign Language Teacher/Freelance Translator, interpreter and proof-reader, specialising in literary translation

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

Lots of things! But I found the numerous talks and workshops I attended to be especially useful, especially when doing my masters.

What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Always work your hardest, and treat everyone as you would like to be treated.
Always be honest with people about your capabilities and never accept a job that is above them. And if you are passionate about something, show it! I got laughed at (a lot) for being interested in languages, and I paid no interest in the comments people made. Look where I am now :)

BE YOURSELF, ALWAYS!

KATIE WRIGHT - Leaver 2011



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What was your journey to this route?

I completed my GCSEs and A-Levels (English Language, Geography and Psychology) at Wickersley and then gained a 2:1 degree in BA (Hons) Primary Education with QTS from Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. This degree allowed me to go straight into a teaching role. Over the years, I have furthered my own professional development by attending a range of courses related to my role.

What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Take any opportunity that comes to you. Think about what you will gain from the experience and how this can set you apart from other candidates going for the job. Some courses or jobs will require experience before applying so make sure you are aware of the requirements.

What is your current job role?

Primary School Teacher

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

Volunteering in schools and during extra-curricular activities allowed me to develop a range of skills. I improved my confidence, my communication skills and showed that I could work alongside a range of other people. I was able to gain further qualifications such as first aid and leadership which helped set me apart from other candidates during job interviews.

TAKE ANY OPPORTUNITY
THAT COMES TO YOU.

KATIE LIMMER - Leaver 2010



What is your current job role?

Marine Engineering Officer
(Merchant Navy)

What was your journey to this route?

GCSE's and A-levels at Wickersley School. 5 years working, gaining life experience before a 3 year sponsored 'Cadetship' consisting of both academic and practical experience, some ashore and some on a ship. Hard work and determination won me the 'Cadet of the Year Award' for the first-ever time that it was awarded by the training company.

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

Teaching sailing and powerboating at Rockley Watersports taught me teamwork and customer service skills. Volunteering at the sea cadets improved my experiences, developing people skills in a customer based environment.

What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Make the most of volunteering opportunities. They look great on your CV and help you gain valuable life experience.

Whether in school or at work, don't let people put you down. The opportunities are there; it's just having the drive to achieve them.

GO OUT AND DO YOUR
BEST AND ONE DAY
YOU'LL FIND WHERE
YOUR MEANT TO BE.

MATHEW DYSON - Leaver 2010



What is your current job role?

BA (Hons) Broadcast Journalism Student

What was your journey to this route?

Completed GCSEs at Oakwood High School and went on to do A-Levels at Wickersley, leaving in 2017.

What experience/s developed your key employability skills?

Since being at university I have completed a number of work placements which have developed my skills in a professional journalism environment. I've also completed an international exchange semester that makes me very appealing to employers.

What advice would you give to current students around developing their own skills ready for leaving education?

Have faith in yourself and your abilities. You are the only person who can dictate what happens when you leave school so it's up to you to prepare yourself and make sure you're ready for life after school.

HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF
AND YOUR ABILITIES.

JASMINE RICHARDS - Leaver 2017

