

NETWORKING AND MAKING CONNECTIONS

I know it sounds obvious, but I cannot stress the benefits of building up a network of connections. Events are an optimal place to collect as many contacts as you can.

Why is making connections important?

- The chance to name drop when making applications
- Chance to get a mentor for your career
- Get first- hand knowledge from current professionals
- Increase your visibility and career progression
- Showcase your knowledge, skills and initiative
- A chance to get internships and work experience
- Get insight knowledge about hidden jobs that are not advertised

Ways to make connections

- Go to as many career events as possible and network
- Reach out to friends, family and academic staff and ask if they know anyone of interest
- Speak to your career team at University and ask them for contacts
- Reach out to alumni networks and groups through LinkedIn
- Contact organisations directly and ask them for the dept that is of interest
- Contacting human resources is also a great way to ask questions

The types of questions to ask when networking

- What made you decide on your career path?
- What kind of skills do I need to acquire?
- How can I make my application stand out of the crowd?
- Is there any experience I should try and get?
- What courses could I take to help my profile and applications?
- What personal skills are organisations looking for?

How to introduce yourself

- Make warm eye contact – don't forget to blink
- A confident handshake and smile
- Be comfortable to talk about yourself
- Show interest in what they have to say
- Practice open body language
- Remember to breathe and don't talk too fast
- Try and enjoy yourself