15 ways to generate career options

1. **Degree:** The AGCAS options series lists a number of common career options for a range of degree subjects [www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/options_with_your_subject.htm)

2. **Destinations:** Find out what recent graduates from your subject have gone on to do 6 months after graduating. Nationally by subject at: [www.hecsu.ac.uk/assets/assets/documents/WDGD_Sept_2013.pdf](http://www.hecsu.ac.uk/assets/assets/documents/WDGD_Sept_2013.pdf)

3. **Careers matching tools:** Prospects Planner - An online careers 'matching' programme that will suggest relevant careers based on your skills, interests and values. [www.prospects.ac.uk/myprospects_planner_login.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/myprospects_planner_login.htm)

4. **Attend careers events:** Raise your awareness of opportunities by attending UCL careers fairs, employer presentations (both on campus and in-house) and themed weeks (spotlight on career areas that don’t tend to offer graduate 'schemes' eg NGO’s and charities, academia, the media, Cultural heritage and the arts). Register for UCL Careers 'alert' to be emailed details of events in advance: [www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/students/alert](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers/students/alert) Find career conferences and networking events relating to sectors you’re interested in and learn as much as you can about the range of job roles attendees are involved in.

5. **Societies and institutes:** Organisations linked to particular subjects have careers sections on their website (eg Institute of Physics or Royal Geographical Society) including case studies and testimonials from industry professionals. They may offer conferences or mentoring opportunities to allow you to meet and learn from industry professionals. Organisations that exist to promote careers using subjects or skills offer similar material eg Languages: [www.languageswork.org.uk/home.aspx](http://www.languageswork.org.uk/home.aspx); creative careers: [www.skillset.org](http://www.skillset.org)

6. **Focus on a subject:** Choose a topic that really interests you eg technology - Use a search engine to find out all the jobs you can that involve doing it, helping others to do it, teaching or talking about it , selling it, writing about it, creating products related to it, organising events associated with it, promoting it - enlist others to help you

7. **Use those around you:** Make a list of everyone you know: family, friends, colleagues. Ask them what they think your skills and strengths (and what they could see you doing). Ask them why? Ask them if they know anyone who has is doing that job already. Talk to that person and ask them what other jobs they could see themselves doing.

8. **Categorised job roles:** Pick an employment sector that interests you (eg finance, advertising, media, health etc) and generate as many interesting job options relating to it as possible. To start you off, a ‘long’ list of ‘categorised’ typical graduate job roles can be found at the HESA website [www.hecsu.ac.uk/assets/assets/documents/Wdgd_supporting_docs_TOW.pdf](http://www.hecsu.ac.uk/assets/assets/documents/Wdgd_supporting_docs_TOW.pdf)

9. **Focus on skills:** Choose a particular skill that you enjoy using (writing, problem solving, negotiating, public speaking, analysing information, organising etc). Now generate all the jobs you can which think of that use that talent – use google searches such as ‘career using X skills’. Ask other people for their ideas. It is often helpful to research as many different words for your skill as you can (use an online thesaurus). For example advising could also be ‘counselling, supporting, guiding, informing, directing’ etc. The more words you have, the more ideas you might prompt.

10. **Occupational Profiles:** Look through an A-Z ‘long’ list of typical graduate roles with job profile information [www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_browse_all.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs_browse_all.htm)

11. **Video profiles:** Staff from a wide range of different professions provide testimony, categorised by degree subject, sector or job role: [http://icould.com](http://icould.com) and [http://careерplayer.com](http://careерplayer.com)

12. **Reference books:** The UCL or your local careers library will stock a range of reference guides to careers that provide profiles of hundreds of different types of jobs eg: the ‘A-Z of careers and Jobs’. Susan Hodgson; Careers 2013 – Trotman publishing

13. **Vacancy sources:** Look at a ‘wider’ range of job vacancy sources on and offline than you are currently – read all the adverts and pick out jobs (or just parts of jobs) in any industry that look interesting and collect them together (perhaps in a collage) – are there consistent elements to your preferences? Find out what are the entry points in to this career.

14. **Look around you:** every day when you go out, read, watch television, try to identify things you would have liked to have been involved in, events you would have liked to have organised, writing you would have liked to produced, research you would liked to have carry out. Try and find out who is involved already and discover what their job role is and how they got there eg linkedin CV profiles.

15. **Use Social media:** Join discussion groups relating to interesting subjects or sectors in linkedin. Look at the profiles of contributors and see what job roles they have now and how they got there.