



HERE FOR A YEAR – ARE YOU A TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE?

WHAT TO DO AND WHEN, FOR MASTERS STUDENTS.

What to expect

The workload on a one-year taught masters course can be quite intense, and when you first arrive and start settling in to your course visiting the careers service may not be top of your 'to do' list. However, it is worth checking out the careers support sooner rather than later, and here are some reasons why:

1. Many employer events take place in the autumn term. Your university may hold one big annual careers fair for a particular sector as early as the beginning of October.
2. Most careers services run workshops to help you with job hunting, CV writing, applications and interviews, and these are likely to take place mainly in the autumn and spring terms. It is worth getting involved with them early in your academic year.

3. Book a guidance appointment with a careers consultant fairly early on. An initial appointment is likely to be part of a process rather than resolving every query in one go. Starting this process early allows time for subsequent appointments as your ideas develop.
4. Keep ahead of deadlines – some graduate schemes close as early as October.
5. If you are thinking of the masters course as a potential stepping stone towards a PhD it is important to be aware of deadlines for PhDs, some of which are as early as November.

The process

For a masters student the process of exploring your career options, planning them and applying for work (outlined in our steps to success article on page 4) obviously has to be speeded up to fit in a year rather than being spread across an undergraduate degree. Although you may previously have covered the earlier stages and be at the 'apply' stage, you may equally still be exploring. Alternatively, your masters course may take you in a new direction so you may find you need to revisit the 'explore' stage. The timeline on page 6 indicates some key deadlines to be aware of – but the important thing is to make full use of the support available during the year to clarify what you want your next step to be and to work towards that goal.

