COVID 19 CAREERS MESSAGE TO STUDENTS

We appreciate that this must be a very difficult time for you and your families and we hope you are keeping safe and well.

We would like to reassure you that we are still providing a full service for you online. We realise that you might feel that this isn’t a priority right now, and we understand this completely, so please use the information below whenever you feel ready.

We would like to give you an update on the current situation regarding graduate, internship and placement recruitment and to remind you that colleagues across the University are available to support you in your career thinking.

Feedback from employers:

We are continuing to collaborate with employers both directly, and through organisations such as the ISE (Institute of Students Employers) and AGCAS (Association of Graduate and Careers Advisory Services). ISE have recently conducted a survey of 130 leading UK graduate employers regarding their response to COVID19 and some of the findings include:

- Firms are investing in new technologies to help them to run their recruitment processes online.
- Most firms have not made final plans about their graduate and placement numbers for the autumn. Some are flagging that they may have to reduce numbers.
- Some internships and summer placement offers are being cancelled by employers, but some are offering compensation (e.g. one week’s pay) or offering online experiences (e.g. virtual mentoring).
- There is a great level of uncertainty amongst employers; approximately 33% said they were unsure about their future recruitment plans.

Although this survey was focussed on the UK, our initial research suggests that this situation is similar to that in most other countries.

What you can expect from us:

- We will offer our full range of (online) careers appointments, workshops, employer presentations, drop-ins, and informal Q&As, and you can access them by booking on TARGETConnect as usual.
- We will continue to liaise with employers, in the UK and internationally, with the aim that students can have a realistic picture of their target graduate labour market.
- We will continue to organise employer led events for Lancaster students through the use of webinars and online platforms such as Microsoft Teams.
- We will maintain our strong relationships with smaller businesses in the north-west and we will continue to offer you access to internships and projects with them.
- We will develop, even further, our award-winning online careers provision so that you can continue to explore your career options, wherever you are right now.

If you have any questions about careers support then you can contact Careers. Here is the link to find out how to contact us.

Sarah Fox

Director of Employability