



Queen Mary

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Science and Engineering

What University Can Do For You

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Today's Aims

1. Review the purpose of university education
2. Identify why you have come to university
3. Consider how to make the most of your time at university

What does university offer me?

- Free text mentimeter slide
 - Education
 - Subject specific skills
 - Soft skills
 - Thinking skills
 - Friends
 - Social life
 - Living independently
 - Having fun

What is the number 1 reason you came to university

- Vote on options
 - Subject knowledge
 - Not wanting to find a job
 - Get a better job
 - Do further study (MSc, PhD etc)
 - Social Life

Agree or Disagree:

Gaining a First Class Degree is the most important thing about coming to university

Why? Open text
mentimeter slide

Discuss why people
have their particular
viewpoint

What jobs do students go and do?



I want a good job. How does my degree get me one?

- Free text slide, students to think about what skills their degree might give them
 - Subject knowledge
 - Data handling
 - Critical thinking
 - Research skills
 - Writing skills
 - Team work
 - Communication
 - Organisation
 - Leadership

Your degree gives you more than just learning facts!

- By completing a degree, you gain more than just science facts
- You will learn and develop skills which are **essential** for any career, not just science

Subject Knowledge, Data Handling and Statistics

- An important skill if you want to continue as a scientist
- Training during your degree building to your final year research project
- An opportunity to show everything you've learnt

Research Skills

- Where have you/will you show research skills during your degree?
 - Project
 - Literature Reviews
 - Essays
 - Additional Reading

Indeed's Top 10 Graduate Skills for Employers

1. Communication
2. Leadership
3. Teamwork
4. Interpersonal skills
5. Adaptability
6. Self-management
7. Organisation
8. Problem solving
9. Decision making
10. Handling difficult situations

Notice how none of these are subject specific

You develop all of these during your degree!



Teamwork, Communication and Leadership

- Group projects
- Sports clubs
- Societies
- Student Ambassadors
- Mentoring & Buddy Scheme

Working with others is an important skill

- Some of your assessments will be group work
- Learning to work with others is essential
- Almost no-one truly works alone, everyone has to work in some form of team

- How to manage group work
 - Define who is doing what, and by when
 - Make notes of agreements. Who was present and who agrees to what
 - Do you need a leader, or a meeting chair to keep meetings on track?

Working with others is an important skill

- Every job requires some degree of team work
- You can't pick the team
- You've got to make it work and do the best you can
- Sometimes, you'll work with people you don't really like!

Adaptability

- Where might you show adaptability during your degree?

Organisation & Self Management

- Where might you show Organisation & Self Management during your degree?

Problem Solving

- Where might you show Problem Solving during your degree?

What about extra curricular activities?



Volunteering



Interest



Sports

What about extra curricular activities?

- Extra Curricular activities are excellent showcases of your skills
- Society Roles: President, Social Sec, Treasurer – loads of skills!
- Listed on your Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)

Internships and Work Experience

- Finding work experience is **hard**
- Most placements are **not advertised**
- Think about what you might want to do, can you find someone to write to?
- Prepare a CV and short covering letter
- The Careers Service, or your advisor can help here



Higher Education Achievement Report



As well as your degree certificate, you will receive a **HEAR**
HEAR lists **both** your degree and non-degree achievements

What is included can be found:

<https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/students/sec/gradintelligence-account-/extracurricular-activities>

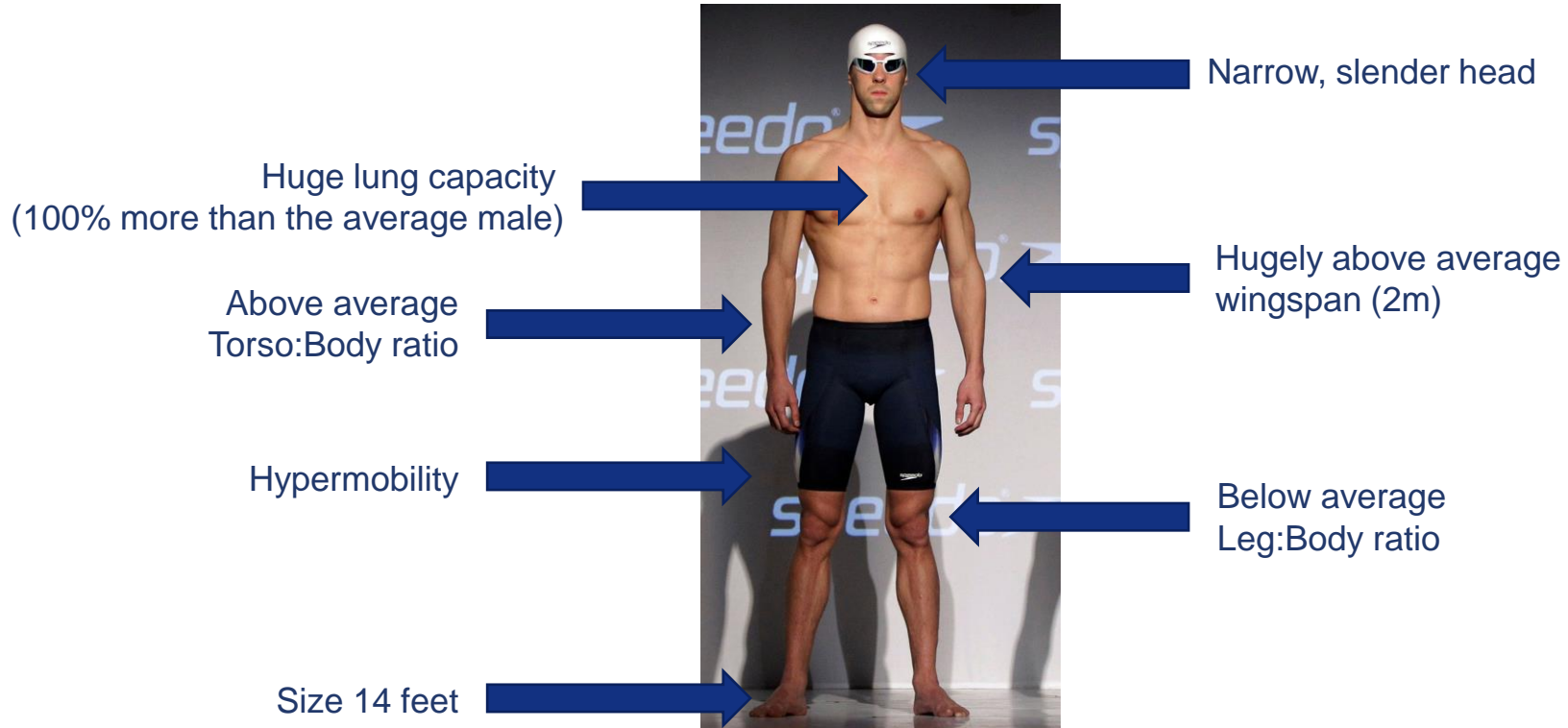
How do I develop a skill? Learning to swim

- No one is born able to swim
 - A teacher can show you the moves, but you still can't swim
 - Practicing swimming teaching you to swim
1. First you focus on not drowning
 2. Later you focus on technique and speed
 3. Then you focus on winning medals



Even an Olympian needs to practice

No one is born an Olympian



No one is born an Olympian

Physiological
advantage does not
equal success



Trained 6 hours a day,
365 days a year

Swam 60 miles a
week

Slept 8 hours a day
plus 2 hour nap

Tracked his diet,
sleep, hydration, body
mass & muscle ratio

Your degree is no different

- You can't get a great degree (or job) without putting the early work in
- You're not going to be a master communicator until you're able to say a few words in front of people
- Your degree will **show you** the right steps, in the right order
- **You need to take those steps**



Recognising Skill Development is Hard



- Start today: keep a portfolio of your work and examples
- When have you used a skill, how did it help, what was the outcome?

Final Questions?

Because of this session, I am going to...

Helpful sources of information

- Links to –
 - QMSU
 - Careers service
 - Skills pass (from QMSU)
 - Library training site
 - [Our brand new all knowing source of information Qmplus page???](#)