

10 MORE WAYS TO CREATE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE

FURTHER DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS AND MAKE SURE YOUR CV HAS IMPACT.

1

Get writing

Start a blog, write articles for the Student Union magazine, create a department or society newsletter or a Twitter feed. Being able to write clearly and concisely in a way that is suitable for the reader is important in every sector.

2

Organise events

Put on a play, performance, fashion show or exhibition to get experience of running and marketing events. Liaising with suppliers and venues or seeking sponsorship will allow you to develop negotiation and planning skills, for example, as well as commercial awareness.

3

Get involved

Join a club or society, become a class rep or get involved in your Student Union. Taking on a position of responsibility such as treasurer of a society or captain of a sports team can be a great way to develop skills in leadership, communication and organisation.

4

Go travel

Independent travel can demonstrate practical problem-solving, organisation and planning skills, as well as cultural sensitivity and global understanding.

5

Start volunteering

From building a database or website for a charity, to developing a marketing campaign or coordinating a research project, there are endless opportunities to get involved in exciting projects that offer substantial experience and opportunity for skills development.

6

Be entrepreneurial

Start a business! This could be selling products on eBay or Etsy, tutoring, or perhaps running a market stall. These are all ways to get exposure to the fundamentals of practical business skills and will enhance your commercial awareness.

7

Raise money

Run a fundraising or PR campaign about an issue you care about to give you experience of campaign management. Here you can develop your creative, persuasive and influencing skills.

8

Work part time

The value of part-time work should not be underestimated. It can allow you to understand how to deal effectively with customers, work in a team, meet targets, manage your time and prove your ability to work under pressure.

9

Use your contacts

The people that you meet at careers events or during work experience might be able to help you find out about future work related opportunities. Networking online can also uncover potential roles that are not formally advertised.

10

Gain new skills

Take a short course or study online to learn a new skill. Whether you would like to learn a foreign language, get to grips with a piece of software used in the sector you are looking to get into, or take an introduction to accountancy or business course, take the initiative to get the know-how recruiters require.

Having gained your experience, it is essential to be able to articulate the skills and knowledge you have gained in future applications and interviews, selling the experience in a way that is attractive to the employer. **L**

See 'Demonstrating your skills' PAGE 25 and 'Impress at interview' PAGE 36