

## Options with a Degree



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean

Careers and  
Employability Centre  
Ionad Dhreuchdan agus  
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## Options with a Degree

### What are the options with a degree?

The kind of career decision you make is likely to depend on your own circumstances but also on the kinds of work you are interested in. Some common pathways for graduates include:

- **Graduate jobs** – Graduate jobs require post holders to have a degree. Sometimes this degree needs to be in a specific subject, like science or engineering. *However up to 75% of graduate jobs are open to graduates of any discipline.* This gives you a lot of options.
- **Graduate Training Schemes** – Graduate training schemes are offered by many large companies. They are typically open to graduates between 2 and 5 years after graduation and tend to involve a structured training programme. The programme may involve working in different departments of a company, working in different locations in the UK or even working abroad.
- **Internships** – Getting into a ‘graduate job’ can be very competitive and many students don’t enter graduate jobs straight after university. Taking an internship or another form of work experience can be a good way to gain experience before seeking graduate work. Internships vary in duration, but are often between six months and one year long. They may be paid or unpaid.
- **Non-graduate jobs** – having a degree is an advantage in many jobs, even those that don’t require specific qualifications. Although many graduates start in non-graduate jobs it is often possible to progress within the workplace into graduate level employment.
- **Voluntary work and travelling** – some graduates take the opportunity after graduation to undertake a period of voluntary work, this may be done in the UK or overseas. Voluntary work can be a great way to build up experience.
- **Further study** – once you have a degree you may consider going onto some form of postgraduate study (such as a masters or a PhD). Some careers (including teaching, nursing and social work) require specific qualifications that can be taken at undergraduate or postgraduate level.



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## Deciding what to do next

If you're just starting to think about your career options after graduation you might find it useful to consider doing the following things:

1. **Identify what kind of work you might be suited to** by using our 'What jobs would suit me?' advice sheet.
2. **Research the careers you're interested in** by using our 'Researching Careers' advice sheet.
3. **Develop a goal and set yourself some targets** by using our 'Career Planning' advice sheet.
4. **Consider getting some work experience**, our 'Work Experience' advice sheet will help you think about how to do this.
5. **Build up a network of contacts**, who can help to develop your ideas about available opportunities. Our 'Networking' advice sheet will give you some starting points.
6. **Search for different kinds of jobs and opportunities**. You can search for jobs on our jobs database, and get further ideas about job searching from our 'Job Searching' advice sheet.
7. **Get help with CVs and application forms**, using our advice sheets: 'CVs', 'Covering Letters' and 'Application Forms'.
8. **Seek support from a qualified careers and employability adviser** who can discuss your ideas with you and help you to think about your next steps. The Careers and Employability Centre has [advisers](#) who are available by telephone, videoconference and email for up to two years after you graduate.

## Further Help and Resources

Information on this and other careers and employability topics can be found on the UHI Careers and Employability Centre website: [www.uhi.ac.uk/careers](http://www.uhi.ac.uk/careers). You can also follow the centre on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UHICareers](https://www.facebook.com/UHICareers), and on Twitter: [twitter.com/UHICareers](https://twitter.com/UHICareers)

Our advice sheets are available from the 'Resources' section of our website.

Free confidential advice is available to all students on an HNC course or above via telephone, videoconference or email. Contact our advisers by clicking on 'speak to an adviser' on our website. This service is also available to graduates within two years of graduating from an HNC course or higher.