

## Options with a Postgraduate Qualification



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 Postgraduate Qualification

### What are the options with a postgraduate qualification?

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

- **Further study or pursuit of an academic career** – postgraduate certificates, diplomas and masters courses may all be taken as entry qualifications for PhD programmes. PhDs are often considered as the entry requirements to an academic career – with many PhD graduates seeking research and lecturing posts. However, academia isn't the only option for people with a postgraduate qualification.
- **Graduate jobs** – Graduate jobs require post holders to have a degree, however graduate jobs are also open to people with postgraduate qualifications, and indeed holding higher qualifications will often be an advantage in the application process.
- **Graduate Training Schemes** – Graduate training schemes are offered by many large companies and are also open to people with postgraduate qualifications. They typically 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 graduate or postgraduate level work can be competitive, and taking an internship or another form of work experience can be a good way to gain experience before seeking 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 postgraduate qualification is an advantage in many jobs, even those that don't require specific qualifications. Some people may choose to start in non-graduate work if they consider it a possible stepping stone into higher level employment.
- **Voluntary work and travelling** – after graduation some postgraduates choose to undertake a period of voluntary work, this may be done in the UK or overseas.



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## Deciding what to do next

If you're just starting to think about your career options 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 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.