



The network for women studying Science, Engineering,  
Technology and the Built Environment in Scotland

### What's YOUR edge??

Not everyone wants to stand out from the crowd, but when it comes to bagging your dream job, this is exactly what you need to do. Soon-to-be Graduates are repeatedly being told that the job market is becoming more and more competitive, but are we listening, and are we doing anything about it??

The number of applications per vacancy keeps climbing, so how do we get our CV standing out from all the others?

Firstly, a **good knowledge of the sector we are trying to get into** is a must. Knowing what we are aiming for, even down to job title, gives us a goal that we can work towards. From this, we can make sure that we gain work experience that is relevant to our goal. This could be a summer placement, volunteer work, a year in industry, or a related part-time job.

Another 'edge giver' is being a **member of a professional body**, especially for niche sectors such as science, engineering and technology. Professional bodies run conferences and workshops that can work alongside our degrees to enhance our skills and experience, and keep us up to date with the research and other goings on within our sector. Most of them even give us cheap student membership rates!

Having the **confidence to talk to people** is also essential. Networking is an extremely important skill to have and allows us to make contacts in our fields that can potentially help us to find and get that job. We can gain a greater insight into working in that field and have the opportunity to make a good impression whilst getting our names known.

Companies want to **employ well rounded people** and look for those that have been involved in activities outside of their degree. This could be sitting on a society committee, taking part in an expedition or being Class Representative. However big or small, every activity shows who we are, whether we play team sports or love to dance.

We also need to **take advantage of the opportunities** in front of us. Universities provide workshops to develop interpersonal skills which, as well as making you more aware of your communication style or body language, show your willingness to develop yourself. We need to be more aware of the skills and attributes that we are developing in ourselves and take responsibility for these.

In the words of Isaac Newton 'every action, has an equal and opposite reaction', so let's hope all our hard works gets us that dream job!!

*Written by a born again student and Interconnect Student Champion*

*Interconnect holds a number of networking events throughout the University year – so please keep an eye open for "Meet the Professionals" lunches, "What Employers Want" workshops and company site visits.*

Details available on the [Interconnect website](#).

Please feel free to forward our newsletter onto friends and colleagues. A PDF version is available on our website.

Kind regards

Allison

[www.interconnect.org.uk](http://www.interconnect.org.uk)

Facebook: [theinterconnectnetwork](#)

Lorna tweets at [www.twitter.com/theICnetwork](https://www.twitter.com/theICnetwork)

To be the first to hear about Interconnect events and receive our e-newsletter, please add your name to our mailing list:  
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