More students these days consider their future careers, employment and graduate prospects before they decide what to study and where. Some career paths require specific degree subjects, but for the majority of graduate schemes you don’t actually need a specific degree! Employers look for transferrable skills in students, so if you are faced with a decision between Universities, make sure you look at the course content in detail, and what the degree may cover. Find out more about transferrable skills here: [www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/careers/Students-Graduates/Resources/Transferable-Skills.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/careers/Students-Graduates/Resources/Transferable-Skills.aspx)

As parents or guardians, you may wonder ‘what can I do?’ when it comes to helping your child decide which University to go to and which career path to take, but you can encourage conversations and ask your child what they are really passionate about. According to the Association of Colleges, some 70% of young people trust their parents for job advice, so your opinion is highly regarded. As the job market gets increasingly more competitive, it becomes even more important for you to get involved with helping and supporting your child through their career decision-making process.

A recent research study by Highfliers said that ‘graduates who have had no previous work experience at all are unlikely to be successful during the selection process and have little or no change of receiving a job offer for their organisations’ graduate programmes’. With this in mind, try to encourage your child to find a part-time internship, a part-time job or summer work experience. It is also a perfect way for them to sample various career options and different jobs without committing to it full-time. They can get a good sense of what an industry is like, and this work experience will show they are interested and passionate about a certain area, in turn helping them land a job after graduation. You can have a look and see what King’s alumni from your course have gone on to do here: [www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/careers/Students-Graduates/Departments/index.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/careers/Students-Graduates/Departments/index.aspx)

Our Services
We are here to help your child from the very beginning. We offer one-to-one guidance appointments throughout the year (excluding Christmas & Easter closure days), where your child can discuss their options, ideas and ambitions. We will help them with making applications, whether they are for employment or further study, and these appointments can be face-to-face, over Skype or over e-mail. We offer practice interviews and connect students to potential employers through hosting several careers fairs in the Autumn term. We also run skills development programmes for each department, and invite relevant employers to meet the students, as well as King’s alumni. You can find out more about our services here: [www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/careers/Students-Graduates/Resources](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/careers/Students-Graduates/Resources)

Whilst your child is at University you can help them to develop and improve their graduate prospects by encouraging them to:

- Get involved: extracurricular activities, sports clubs and part-time work are all fantastic ways to boost a CV, meet new people and develop your skills
- Talk, talk, talk: attending careers events with employers or previous alumni is a great way to get started thinking about potential careers and seeing what those with your subject have gone on to do
- Visit us: You don’t need to know what you want to do in order to talk to us and get the thought process started

You can find more ideas here: [www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/careers/prospective/Makemost.aspx](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/services/careers/prospective/Makemost.aspx)

Please get in touch if you have any further concerns or ideas.

King’s CareerConnect
[www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect)

King’s CareerConnect is our exclusive online career portal enabling students and recent alumni to engage with our services. Once logged in, you can access our vacancy board and search hundreds of part-time roles, placements, internships and graduate-level opportunities, book one-to-one careers or application guidance appointments, apply for exclusive King’s Internships and view our full events calendar to book attendance at our many events throughout the year.

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