As a care experienced student, we understand that you may not have used a careers service before. If so, please don’t worry; we are here to help and support you. We also understand that you may have faced a range of additional barriers that may have prevented you from accessing work experience or careers support and we are keen for you to reach out and engage with us. Careers & Enterprise is here to help you achieve your aspirations and potential.

We’re here for you throughout your career journey, during and beyond your time at Durham, and our support includes, but is not limited to:

**Expert careers advice**

Our careers advisers can help you with your individual needs. We’ll support you from day one with your [career planning](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/205-CareerPlanning.aspx) and applications to internships, placements, and graduate jobs. Wherever you’ve come from and wherever you want to go, we’ll help you develop the skills and experiences you need to succeed. You don’t need a career plan or even a career idea to make an [appointment](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/504-QuickStart.aspx#appointments) with a Careers Adviser – we can help you to explore, plan and progress. Our Careers Advisers also run a range of career workshops and talks each year, on practical topics such as writing a CV or job application and preparing for interviews, to career insight panels focusing on different career sectors.

**Career information resources**

There are countless careers, roles, and employers to explore, which can sometimes feel a little bit daunting, but we are here to help. We have a wide range of [online resources](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/501-OnlineResources.aspx) and tools available to support you with your careers research, including detailed [career sector guides](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/DU%20Career%20Sector%20Guides/Forms/AllItems.aspx) and [help sheets](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/DU%20Careers%20Help%20Sheets/Forms/AllItems.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=BGnmrR&CID=82f94066%2D5f5f%2D4ca4%2D85da%2Dd3200e5d8d3e&FolderCTID=0x012000F9B5E9CBB5505E45A40979EB86E62D8D&viewid=1cb9d51f%2Db0d9%2D4297%2Db271%2Dd8c89276ff5d) on topics such as preparing your CV, making job applications, and what to expect at assessment centres and interviews. We also have interactive tools available to help you practise your interview and assessment skills, and a CV review tool, which will give you instant feedback on your CV.

**Building your network**

We’ve got links with many leading graduate recruiters, and you’ll have access to an extensive range of work experience and graduate opportunities. Why not attend one of the hundreds of employer events we offer each year? They are a fantastic way to meet graduate recruiters to find out about their internships, placements, and graduate roles. Make the most of our connections to build knowledge, gain insights and explore opportunities. We can also support you to navigate LinkedIn to build your professional network. For example, the LinkedIn alumni area enables you to search for Durham alumni who studied your degree or who are from your college or those in career areas of interest to you. See our [help sheets](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/DU%20Careers%20Help%20Sheets/Forms/AllItems.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=BGnmrR&CID=82f94066%2D5f5f%2D4ca4%2D85da%2Dd3200e5d8d3e&FolderCTID=0x012000F9B5E9CBB5505E45A40979EB86E62D8D&viewid=1cb9d51f%2Db0d9%2D4297%2Db271%2Dd8c89276ff5d) for information on networking and using LinkedIn.

**Developing work experience**

The graduate job market is extremely competitive and in addition to academic achievements, graduate employers will want to see evidence of your employability or workplace skills. Work experience will enable you to explore careers and employers, to develop your personal and professional skills and it will enable you to stand out to prospective employers. The Careers & Enterprise Centre can help you to build [work experience](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/206-DevelopYourself.aspx); whether it’s a summer internship, a placement year, or part-time work experience during term time.

As well as internship schemes for large graduate recruiters, we also create **bespoke work experience internship and development programmes** that meet the specific needs of individual students. Programmes change on an annual basis, to ensure we best meet the needs of our current student cohort. Our [‘Exclusive Opportunities’](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/435-DurhamExclusive.aspx) page provides information on current opportunities.

**Global Internships & Volunteering**

The Careers & Enterprise Centre works in partnership with the International Office to offer a programme of short-term [global internships and volunteering](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/435-DurhamExclusive.aspx#global-internships-volunteering) opportunities during the summer vacation period. There are no programme fees, and financial support is available for travel and cost-of-living expenses. Funding is available only to students who come from lower household income backgrounds, with applications welcomed from students who are care experienced. Funding is provided in part by the Turing scheme, so the destinations of placements can vary each year. In the summer of 2024, for example, we supported students to undertake internships in New York, Seoul and Lisbon. Our volunteering projects took place in Bali, Fiji, Brazil, and Saint Lucia.

**Student Employment Service**

Lots of our students work during their time at university, with many employed in university roles supporting open days, working in colleges or in professional services such as the Careers & Enterprise service or the Marketing team. If you’re seeking a part-time job alongside your studies, our [Student Employment Service](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/430-PartTimeWork.aspx#student-employment-service) helps you to find and apply for paid part time, voluntary and work experience opportunities both at the university and in the local area.

**Student Employability Fund**

The [Student Employability Fund](https://www.durham.ac.uk/study/scholarships/current-students/north-east/), created in 2018, financially supports students from households with an income of below £42,875 per annum (as assessed by Student Finance England or equivalent) to develop skills, attributes and experiences that will help them to progress in their careers.

**Turn a bright idea into a great new business**

More of our students and graduates are starting their own businesses than ever before. Whether you have dreams of starting a freelance career, or a great idea for a new product or service, Careers & Enterprise provides the support you need to achieve your goals. Delivered from the Hazan Venture Lab, our new co-working space for aspiring entrepreneurs, we provide a comprehensive offer of start-up support. This includes one-to-one start-up advice, grant funding, and workshops, as well as access to our network of established entrepreneurs and business support professionals. The University’s annual Blueprint Start-up Challenge provides the opportunity to win up to £10,000 to take your new venture to the next level! Visit our [‘Start new ventures’](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/301-StartNewVentures.aspx) information pages to learn more about enterprise-focused activities.

Find out more about Careers & Enterprise support, resources and activities on our [Supporting Students hub](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents). Our [Quick Start Guide](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/504-QuickStart.aspx) is a great starting point to get to know our service and our [‘Equality, Diversity and Your Career’](https://durhamuniversity.sharepoint.com/teams/CareersEnterprise-SupportingStudents/SitePages/209-EqualityDiversityAndYourCareer.aspx) page provides information on enhanced support and opportunities available to students from diverse backgrounds.

If you would like to learn more about how Careers & Enterprise can support you as a care experienced student, contact our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion lead, Adelle Fairclough (E-mail: [adelle.fairclough@durham.ac.uk](mailto:adelle.fairclough@durham.ac.uk)) in the first instance for further information.

‘Everyone had low expectations of me because of my care background, even my beloved foster family. It took me a very long time to figure out how those expectations were downgrading my own dreams and aspirations. I started dreaming big and being determined to prove that they were so wrong. Getting into university was my ‘*I’ve done the work therefore I made it*’ moment, but removing all the barriers to my aspirations without accepting any limit to my dream took a lot of hard work and intentionality – but I did it. It was the most powerful thing I have ever done; it generated an amazing flow of opportunities through which I started flourishing and doing things I have never thought to even be on my radar! So, I just want to beg anyone who will be reading this, to dream big with their career aspirations. To dream big and break those big dreams down into smaller and actionable actions they can start working on TODAY. If you’re willing to work on each of those smaller actions hard enough, and long enough, then there is nothing that you cannot achieve’. – Giammarco Di Gregorio, a recent Durham graduate.