UCC CAREER SERVICES

OUR STATEMENT OF SERVICE

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Our vision is to design and deliver high quality, flexible, inclusive and innovative career services to support students in achieving their desired career and personal development outcomes.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We facilitate students’ professional development and successful career transition through and out of UCC by providing access to careers advice and coaching, employability skills development classes, industry led workshops and events, work integrated learning opportunities or postgraduate opportunities, both nationally and internationally. Students are provided with access to online, digital, self-serve resources to support them in making job applications and securing their first graduate role.

**OBJECTIVES**

To lead the development, integration, and delivery of University College Cork’s Employability Framework. To be known for our expertise, agility, and strategic significance, as employability is a paramount outcome from the university experience. We aim to drive innovative, transformative employability projects within the university and work with academic leaders, employers, and the [Graduate Attributes Programme](https://www.ucc.ie/en/graduateattributes/) to ensure successful work-integrated learning and transversal skills are embedded in the curriculum to enable our students to be digitally fluent, agile, and resilient.

**PRIORITIES**

Our priorities for 2022 to 2025 are integrated in an Employability Framework. This framework is derived from and aligned fully to the Connected Curriculum, the [University KPIs](https://www.ucc.ie/en/strategicplanning/kpi/) and the [UCC 2022](https://www.ucc.ie/en/media/support/strategicplanning/UCC_2022_Delivering_a_Connected_University.pdf) strategic pivot. Five pillars of this framework make up 25 key actions to lead to

* Embedding employability in the curriculum in disciplinary appropriate ways within programmes
* Fulfilling successful student transitions, to empower students to develop and articulate the skills and attributes needed to make a successful transition from university to the next stage of their career
* Building meaningful partnerships, and to establish, maintain, and expand an eco-system of inter-connected working relationships with our key stakeholders, including academics, employers and alumni to support student career development
* Increasing employment opportunities where we expand meaningful connections for all students to gain local, national, and global employment opportunities, through placements, internships, work-integrated learning and work-based projects
* Communicating and enhancing UCC’s role as leader for graduate employability, and actively communicate, promote and enhance student employability as delivered through strategic initiatives.

# Service Description – UCC Students and Graduates

# What you can expect from us: We undertake to provide a high-quality service to UCC students which includes access to: -

1. Confidential and impartial careers and employability advice and guidance from professionally qualified staff.
2. Up to date careers and work-related information with an emphasis on graduate job opportunities and post graduate programmes.
3. Opportunities for work experience placements and internships (paid and unpaid).
4. Opportunities to develop employability skills
5. Opportunities to meet with graduate recruiters through a comprehensive programme of events.
6. Opportunities to access a range of online learning spaces, digital resources, and digital tools such as AI practice interview and CV review platforms, psychometric questionnaires and transition out support video resources.

**Access to services and facilities:** Access to our facilities is available free of charge to all registered UCC students. Graduates are eligible to use Career Services resources for up to 12 months after graduation. Our online resources are open access to all.

Email: [careers@ucc.ie](mailto:careers@ucc.ie)

**Location:** The Career Services office is located on the Ground Floor and Second Floor of the [Hub Building](https://www.google.com/maps?q=ucc+hub+building&rlz=1C1GCEA_enIE818IE818&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjt1rumxpr1AhXxmFwKHcoFBwgQ_AUoAnoECAIQBA) on UCC’s main campus. We are open from **9:00am to 5:00pm** - Monday to Thursday and from **9:00 to 4:00pm** on Friday.

**Detailed service description**

**Our Approach**

* Working collaboratively with students, academic departments, and industry representatives as partners.
* Providing a careers advisory and coaching service to students.
* Working in partnership with university colleagues to deliver customised employability workshops and events to meet the students' bespoke needs.
* Administering work integrated learning modules on behalf of academic programmes.
* Creating opportunities for students and recent graduates to meet and connect with national and international employers.
* Offering a personal, bespoke service to create employer-student connections that form exciting futures for learning, living and working in a global society.

## One to one Careers Advice and Guidance:

Careers advice is a key element of our service where we aim to provide accurate, impartial careers advice delivered by a qualified advisor and based on the individuals needs and circumstances. Several options are available to students:

* Remote or in-person careers consultations by appointment with an experienced Careers Consultant where students can discuss a wide variety of topics from CV’s to interviews to general advice on career paths.
* We are unable to offer in depth advice by email, however general queries can be emailed to [careers@ucc.ie.](mailto:careers@ucc.ie)

**A Career Consultant can support your ability to:**

* Make decisions and achieve goals that are aligned with personal strengths, values and interests.
* Clarify students’ individual interests, values, personal characteristics and aspirations using psychometrically validated questionnaires.
* Present a professional image to the world online, in writing and in person.
* Identify local, national and international development opportunities, on and off campus, voluntary and paid, educational and work-based.
* Source and compete effectively for career opportunities of interest. We provide professional impartial, person-centred, confidential support to all students and recent graduates.

You can make an appointment to meet a Career Consultant on our Careers Connect platform. [Login to Careers Connect](https://careersconnect.ucc.ie/unauth) with your Student IT details.

## Career and employability initiatives

* In partnership with academic departments and other UCC initiatives/units, the Career Services offers a suite of employability & career related seminars and workshops. These are employability and career related workshops customised to meet the needs of the cohort of students of that department/initiative.
* Deliver general careers workshops over the academic year covering topics such as career planning, job search and the applications process. Details are available at [www.ucc.ie/careers](http://www.ucc.ie/careers)
* The [UCC EmployAgility Award](https://www.ucc.ie/en/careers/areyouacurrentstudent/getexperience/awards/) enables students to receive formal recognition for the learning gained from their involvement in extra - curricular activities inside and outside of UCC. The activities are categorised into six pathways:
  + **Internship Pathway**: Unpaid working Internships with a campus organisation
  + **Student Life Pathway:** Contribution to enhancing student life in UCC by involvement in Clubs, Societies, Students’ Union or other with on campus voluntary initiatives e.g. Peer Support.
  + **Volunteering Pathway:** Volunteering in organisations external to UCC
  + **Entrepreneurship Pathway:** Developing entrepreneurial skills
  + **Research Pathway:** Unaccredited research
  + **Open Pathway:** Combined participation in different pathways
* With the support of the UCC Graduate Attributes Programme, we launched the Career Set CV Review tool and Big Interview practice interview platform. Career Set’s Artificial Intelligence algorithms have been configured to generate personalised CV feedback. With Big Interview students and recent graduates can use the ‘Learn’ option to undertake short courses to help them understand the interview process and STAR technique. Users will also get hands-on practice with interactive mock interviews tailored to specific industries, jobs, and experience level.

## Provision of Information about careers, jobs and employers

* The Career Services office (Ground Floor, Hub Building) has a range of hard copy and online careers information facilities.
* A fortnightly E-Newsletter is sent out to all UCC Students during term time providing information regarding upcoming events, talks, and job vacancies. Targeted email communications regarding employability initiatives, events and job opportunities are sent to student and graduate cohorts where relevant.
* Careers Website [www.ucc.ie/careers](http://www.ucc.ie/careers) has comprehensive information about career paths, graduate destinations, job and postgraduate vacancies, useful links to other career sites as well as up to date information on all our activities, opening times, etc. This is a central information source for resources, advice, and links to employer information. Our Panopto library hosts recordings of career seminars and employer presentations.
* With the support of the UCC Graduate Attributes Programme [twelve videos](https://www.ucc.ie/en/careers/areyouacurrentstudent/getpreparedgap/) have been produced to support students as they transition from UCC to the workplace.
* Social media: We post extensive information about jobs, events and other relevant items on [Facebook,](http://www.facebook.com/ucc.careers,) [Twitter,](http://www.twitter.com/careersUCC) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ucccareers/), and [LinkedIn.](https://ie.linkedin.com/in/ucc-career-services)

## Management of work placement modules on behalf of academic departments

UCC Career Services manages work placement modules on behalf of several Academic programmes. The service is responsible for all non-academic aspects of these modules. Placement managers based in the Career Services:

* Source relevant work-based activities which meet the criteria of the module. This can include work experience of a paid or unpaid nature
* Make contact with and develop working relationships with employers, civic and community organisations and any other organisation that may be able to support the module by providing placement opportunities.
* Work with individual students as required to advise on individual placement preferences and support them in the successful acquisition of a placement
* Provide one-to-one career coaching, workshops and preplacement training to prepare students for job applications, interviews and basic workplace skills and etiquette
* Provide up-to-date information to academic partners regarding progress in placing the students and any other feedback which may be relevant to the on-going management and development of the module

*Note: Career services staff are not responsible for any of the academic components or assessment of the module. We will advise and provide employer and student feedback to our academic colleagues in this regard.*

## Access to graduate employers and job opportunities

UCC Career Services promotes engagement with employers and other opportunity providers to promote the skills and attributes of students and graduates of UCC academic programmes to those organisations. During the first teaching period, we organise a Recruitment Fair and a series of on campus employer activities. All events are advertised on **ucc.ie/careers**, in our fortnighly-newsletter, and on our social media platforms. These activities include:

* Annual Recruitment Fair: provide opportunities for students to meet employers who want to recruit UCC graduates. A list of companies attending this event is published on the Career Services website at [**www.ucc.ie/careers/events.** This event is traditionally hosted at an on-campus location, however from 2020-2021 the event was hosted on a virtual platform.](http://www.ucc.ie/careers/events)
* Employer networking events where several companies from the same sector are available (on campus or remotely) to connect with students and graduates to outline their work and available and future career opportunities.
* All current students and recent graduates (within 12 months of graduation) have access to our [Careers Connect platform](https://careersconnect.ucc.ie/) where graduate and student job vacancies are advertised free of charge on behalf of employers who are seeking to recruit UCC graduates.

## Our expectations from UCC students and graduates:

To offer a relevant, timely and high-quality service, we ask that students:

* Show respect and courtesy to our staff and be honest with us about your support needs.
* Give feedback, when requested, about your experience of the service so that we can evaluate and improve services provided.
* Attend workshops and presentations on time and contribute to discussion where appropriate.
* Consider what can be realistically achieved during a career consultation (30-minute session) and attend appointments on time.
* If you cannot attend a booked appointment, we would appreciate it if you could login to Careers Connect and cancel your consultation so another student or graduate can avail of the time.
* Assist us in our work collecting information on graduates’ career progression by responding to the graduate destinations survey which we conduct 6 months after graduation

# Working with Academic Departments to deliver employability skills development to students

UCC Career Services works closely with academic departments to support them in the development of employability skills of students in their academic programmes. This working relationship is focused on core areas:

* **Seminars and Workshops:** A suite of employability and career related workshops customised to meet the needs of the cohort of students of a specific academic department/programme
* **Work placement:** Management of the non-academic aspects of placement modules including employer contact and acquisition of placement opportunities for students participating in accredited work placement or internship modules in an academic programme
* **First destinations of UCC graduates survey:** This annual survey about the employment and post graduate destinations of UCC graduates is conducted in the spring following graduation. It is part of the [HEA Graduate Outcomes Survey.](https://hea.ie/statistics/graduate-outcomes-data-and-reports/) Summary information is distributed to university Managers, Programme Directors and other interested parties.

We also support academic departments and UCC initiatives/projects in a variety of other employability related initiatives as requested from time to time. Learn more.

# Enterprise Engagement

# Career Services teams work in partnership with employers to connect industry with skilled, competent, and well-rounded students and graduates. We are instrumental in providing employers with opportunities to connect with students as they transition through university and prepare for transitioning to the workplace.

# UCC Students bring strengths and values to the employer, far beyond their academic qualifications. Students gain a range of strong values and attributes during their time at UCC and this enables them to become valuable employees. UCC Career Services boasts a highly qualified Work Placement Team. Each Placement Manager has in-depth knowledge, experience, and specialisation in specific employment sectors. We offer a personal, bespoke service to create employer-student connections that form exciting futures. Our Employability and Enterprise Engagement Team can create opportunities for you to connect with our final year cohort and recent graduates.

What employers can expect from us:

* A range of opportunities to promote your company and advertise your vacancies to UCC students and graduates. This includes the organisation of a recruitment fair, networking events, presentations/webinars, workshops vacancy advertisement, class mailshots, social media campaigns etc.
* Advice on most effective methods and the optimum timeto promote your brand and opportunities to UCC students and graduates.