Making the Most of your time at Imperial (careers)

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Application Timeline

Autumn Term	- Aim to attend as many Applications of Computing in Industry (ACI) Lectures as possible to expand your networks and knowledge of sectors and available opportunities - Get registered on DoC's Corporate Partnership Programme Portal (CPP) and JobsLive set your profile to receive your preferred vacancies/alerts - If you do not have a LinkedIn profile, create one - Begin to research career options - Attend careers events and fairs (IT & Technology Fair is usually in early November) - Prepare your CV - Prepare for interviews/assessment centres
Spring Term	- Carefully consider your choice of Group and Individual projects, to ensure that they enhance your CV as well as gaining you academic credit and enjoyment - Continue to make applications for graduate jobs/further study

Summer Term	- Continue to make applications for graduate jobs/further study
	- Visit the Careers Service during their 'quiet season' (which extends into the Summer Vacation) to:
	    ○ Obtain any help needed for your job search and decide which companies you would like to target
	    ○ Review CV and covering letter

Getting Prepared – Researching Your Career Options

Obtaining a Computing degree from Imperial College will make you highly employable as the skills developed on your degree are greatly sought after by employers in every sector. You should ensure you research your career options and consider what industry sector you would prefer so that you can choose to complete an internship in a sector that maximises the benefits for your career.

Things to consider:

- Would you prefer to work for a small start-up or a large multi-national company?
- What sector would you be interested in gaining experience in? This could range from education, government, finance, consultancy, games, software companies and more. All job sectors will require computing students.
- What job role are you keen to explore? Job titles include software developer, applications developer, systems developer, analyst, IT consultant, games developer, data scientist. Find out more on the Careers Service Information Technology page or the Prospects website
- Have a look at what previous Imperial Computing students have done after graduation to give you some ideas
- Find out where previous DoC students have gone for their 6 month industrial placement
- Attend Applications of Computing in Industry (ACI) lectures

Getting Prepared - Develop Your Skills

Being successful in the race for a job means starting early. Recruiters are looking for a range of transferable and technical skills so in order to be considered for a position you need to start building the evidence of how you meet those skills early on in your degree.

Demonstrate your transferable skills through:

- Taking part in clubs and societies – Imperial College Student Union has hundreds that you can get involved in
- Take on a committee position or become an academic representative (this will show leadership experience, plus planning an event or group meetings shows your organisational abilities and any challenges you face along the way will be great to demonstrate problem solving)
- Volunteering (consider teaching with Team-Up and the Imperial Hub)
- Limited part-time work, perhaps a Saturday job (find opportunities on JobsLive or other student jobs boards, remember to take note of Imperial's student employment during studies policy). Remember, your degree is extremely demanding, so we recommend carefully considering whether you can meet your academic obligations if you take on even a few hours a week of work
- Start your own business – get help from Imperial Create Lab

Technical skills will be developed through your course and any projects you undertake but many people also choose to further develop their technical skills outside of their course. You could consider:

- Finding out which programming languages are used in the particular company or sector you are considering and then teaching yourself any languages that you don't already know using websites like Codecademy.
- Design your own apps/software – if there is commercial potential get help from Imperial Create Lab
- Take part in competitions and challenges

Getting Prepared - Attend Careers workshops/appointments

Workshops

The Careers Service runs daily afternoon seminars (16.15 – 17.15) to prepare you for all aspects of the internship application process including CVs, application forms, interviews and assessment centres. Longer lunchtime workshops (12.30 – 14.00) each day provide a chance to practice all aspects of the interview and assessment centre process.

The Careers Service also delivers talks in Computing specifically for DoC students – look out for emails from the department with more details.

Appointments

The Careers Service runs daily 20 minute appointments (bookable from 7am on the day) as well as weekly lunchtime appointments.

All appointments and central Careers Service workshops can be booked on JobsLive.

Finding Jobs

- Sign up to the [CPP Portal](#) and make sure your profile displays you to full advantage. See what opportunities and events are listed.
- Visit [JobsLive](#) and ensure you set your profile to receive notifications of relevant new vacancies.
- Visit the [DoC webpage](#) detailing vacancies notified to the department
- There is a separate website with [placement vacancies](#)
- There are many other internship jobs boards such as [Step](#). A google search will uncover lots more! Don't forget to register your email address so that new vacancies are sent to you.

For further advice on advertised and speculative approaches visit the [Careers Service Internships & Placements website](#).

Resources

Researching Career Options	[Prospects Job Sectors](#) [Careers Service Information Technology](#) [Prospects Types of Jobs](#) [Silicon Milkroundabout](#) [Built in London](#)
Application & Selection including CVs & Covering Letters, Application Forms, Interviews & Assessment Centres	[Careers Service Advice](#) [Careers Service Handouts](#)

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