

Five Things To Do *First*

When you start your graduate job search

Finishing university is a big deal. But the weeks after graduation can feel surprisingly directionless. Here's where to focus your energy when you're just getting started — five honest, practical steps to give your job search the best possible start.

Five steps to start strong

01

PRESENCE

Sort your professional presence before you apply anywhere

Recruiters will Google you. Make sure what they find is intentional. Get your LinkedIn profile properly filled out — a decent photo, a headline that says more than just your degree, and a short summary that sounds like you. Tidy up any other social media while you're at it. This takes a day and it pays off immediately.

02

FOCUS

Get clear on what you want — then narrow your list down

Applying to everything is tempting, but it's mostly a waste of time. Take a few hours to honestly figure out which sectors, roles, and locations you're actually interested in. A focused list of 20 well-researched applications will get you further than 200 generic ones. Employers can tell when you've done your homework — and when you haven't.

03

NETWORK

Talk to people — most jobs never even get advertised

This one feels awkward, but it works. Reach out to alumni, tutors, family contacts, and people doing jobs you're curious about. Don't ask for a job — ask for a 20-minute chat. Most people are happy to help, and those conversations often lead to referrals and opportunities that never appear on any job board.

04

EVIDENCE

Translate your degree into things employers actually care about

Employers don't hire degrees — they hire people who can do things. Go through your university experience and pull out concrete examples of what you achieved: projects you led, problems you solved, results you produced. Your dissertation, group work, and part-time jobs all count. Get comfortable saying these things out loud, not just listing them on a CV.

05

CONSISTENCY

Treat the search like a job — but build in space to breathe

Without structure, a job search becomes demoralising fast. Set yourself small daily goals rather than fixating on outcomes you can't control: contact two people, research three companies, refine one application. Track what you've sent and follow up. And rest — a burned-out version of you won't interview well. Rejections are normal; they're data, not a verdict.

Not sure where you're headed?

Lucid Vantage offers honest, one-to-one career guidance sessions to help you figure out your direction — without the jargon.

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