

# The Sussex graduate – making the future

For employers, it's not so much what you know, but what you can do with your knowledge that counts. The experience and skills you'll acquire here beyond your studies will make you an attractive prospect. Initiatives such as Sussex Plus, together with the Careers and Employability Centre, are here to help you turn your skills to your career advantage. It's good to know that six months after graduating 85 per cent of 2009 Sussex graduates were working, studying, or both.

## Sussex Plus and Skillclouds

### Key facts

- turn your Higher Education experiences to your career advantage
- develop a range of skills
- plan your personal development and review your learning
- enhance and hone your skills through a range of opportunities
- understand and communicate your skills and activities



In addition to academic qualifications, employers increasingly look for wider life skills such as leadership, personal initiative and team working. Sussex Plus and Skillclouds are two complementary initiatives for undergraduates:

- Sussex Plus encourages you to develop your skills by getting involved in extra-curricular activities. It enables you to reflect on your experiences and document what you've learned in an attractive multimedia webfolio – like an online CV but with so much more
- Skillclouds provides personalised information about the skills gained through your degree programme, and can be used as a resource in the development of your Sussex Plus webfolio.

Taking part in Sussex Plus enables you to bring together evidence of your academic achievements, part-time work, volunteering, student development activities and life experience. You will have the opportunity to:

- develop a range of life skills through employability skills events
- enhance and hone your skills by volunteering in schools, contributing to community projects through Project V (refer to page 14), taking part in the Learning to Lead programme (a 10-day intensive leadership programme with affiliation to the Institute of Leadership and Management), or being active in student media, and
- enrich your learning experience and help manage your personal and career development.

Sussex Plus can help you develop confidence and, by investing a little time, you will build the skills employers are looking for and have a webfolio to showcase what you can do. Visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexplus](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/sussexplus)

## Mark's perspective

'The Careers and Employability Centre not only provided me with valuable careers advice for the future, but their jobs database has helped me find part-time work on campus.'

'I was awarded a place on the Learning to Lead Scheme. It was really rewarding, and will benefit me as I follow my ambition towards an academic career.'

'The Centre can help you plan for the future, enabling you to maximise your potential during these challenging economic times.'

Mark Howell  
History student



## Your career and employability plan

### First-year students

Get involved in student clubs, write for the student press and volunteer in the community through Project V. Explore part-time work options with the Careers and Employability Centre, attend employer drop-ins and develop your CV-based webfolio. Talk to a careers advisor about vacation work. Try to show how resourceful you are.

### Second-year students

Clarify your career ideas with a Careers and Employability Centre advisor. Attend campus recruitment fairs, employer talks and career development workshops to explore your options. Bolster your CV through student development activities.

Think about how you can make the most of summer work in the UK or abroad. Talk through your ideas with a careers advisor.

### Finalists

Spend time each week moving your plans forward. Attend employer talks, Gradfair and Lawfair. Attend Careers and Employability Centre workshops to learn how to make your applications stand out and feel confident about interviews, employer selection tests and assessment centres. Many employers, and study and training providers, have deadlines early in the year (some before Christmas) so don't miss out.

Use employer directories to find graduate opportunities and check vacancies on our web page.

Attend the Sussex Postgraduate Study Open Day, check funding deadlines and explore how we can help you once you graduate.

### Study abroad opportunities

Refer to page 27 for more information.



Research by Sussex undergraduate Nick Skidmore into Rudyard Kipling's correspondence has been displayed at Bateman's, the author's Sussex home. Nick was a participant in the University-funded Junior Research Associate bursary scheme, which provides talented and ambitious undergraduates with the opportunity to get a taste of life as a researcher

### Nadia's perspective

'When I came to Sussex I didn't really know what enterprise or being an entrepreneur was. I thought it was all about finance and making lots of money. However, I decided to join the student society Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) to support my studies in economics, and my experiences since have been life changing. The focus has always been on social enterprise, helping others to help themselves. I'm now president of the society and have been instrumental in setting up social enterprise projects both locally and in Malawi. I've gained a great set of transferable skills, such as leadership and presentation skills, which will aid me in my future career in international development. With the support of the Business and Enterprise Office at Sussex I've been able to attend prestigious events such as the NUS awards, take part in national competitions and even win a Student Leadership Award. I also think it was my participation in enterprise activities that helped me win full funding to complete a Masters degree in the coming year.'

Nadia Weigh  
BA in Economics  
and Development  
Studies



### Junior Research Associate bursary scheme

The pioneering Junior Research Associate bursary enables talented and ambitious undergraduates interested in pursuing an academic career after graduation to experience a taste of life as a researcher during the summer months. Students are supervised by some of the University's top researchers in subject areas as diverse as literature, quantum physics and biology. In 2010, 25 students received £1,800 each to support them in their work.

### Student Associate Scheme

This Scheme gives students in Higher Education the opportunity to work alongside teachers in schools, gain knowledge and experience about teaching, and to explore teaching as a career while still studying for their degree. Students who are registered full- or part-time on a degree programme may be eligible for the Scheme. For more details, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/education/sas](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/sas)

### Student entrepreneurship activities

The Business and Enterprise Office at Sussex promotes entrepreneurship to students across campus. Activities offered include the Enterprise Thursdays speaker events (fun informal talks from real-life entrepreneurs), business advice, and competitions and workshops that develop skills such as teambuilding, creativity, ideas generation and strategic business planning. For more details, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/enterprise](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/enterprise)

### Project V

Project V is the community volunteering service at the University of Sussex Students' Union. There are numerous opportunities including working in an art gallery in central Brighton, volunteering with the NHS and Age Concern, helping run a drop-in support service for people living with HIV or AIDS, or taking part in leisure activities with someone who is visually impaired. By doing something different and rewarding, you can help others, develop new skills and gain valuable experience for your CV. For more information, visit [www.sussexstudent.com/volunteering](http://www.sussexstudent.com/volunteering)

## Careers and Employability Centre

### Key facts

- help with CV preparation and job hunting
- information on careers, employers and further training
- careers events, skills workshops and fairs
- help finding part-time work while you study

The University's Careers and Employability Centre complements your academic training during your time at Sussex. Our team of career professionals can help you to enrich your student experience and develop career strategies. We help you to find opportunities suited to your skills, knowledge and interests. Services include:

- help with job hunting – individual discussion and group sessions to help hone your strategies for starting your career
- CV preparation and advice, and help with researching potential employers
- information on different types of work, career pathways, employers, vacancies, further training/study, reference books and various takeaway publications
- a full programme of career events designed to put you in touch with employers and professionals: from workshops to help you secure that first interview, to fairs and employer talks about graduate opportunities
- skills workshops
- a range of fairs focusing on different aspects of graduate recruitment
- web pages featuring information on experience, part-time jobs, finalist and graduate vacancies. Visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/careers](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers)

### Part-time work opportunities

Many students work part time and in vacations to earn extra money. The Careers and Employability Centre advertises details of a wide range of temporary and part-time jobs each year. You can look through vacancies in the information centre, or make use of our job vacancies web page.

With thriving tourism and creative digital media industries, Brighton is a good place to look for part-time work. Our students apply for jobs in shops, hotels, bars, restaurants and offices, as well as on campus.

To find out more about the Careers and Employability Centre, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/careers](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers)

## Success after Sussex

You can be confident that your experience at Sussex will help give you the best possible start in your chosen career. You will be joining the many Sussex graduates who have gone on to be highly successful in a variety of fields.

### Ian McEwan, CBE Author

Ian, an English Literature graduate, is one of the UK's best-known living authors. Over the past 30 years, he has written novels, short stories and TV and film scripts. Ian has won several prestigious literary awards.

### Michael Fuller, Chief Inspector of the HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate

From a cadet with London's Metropolitan Police Service, Michael rose to the rank of Deputy Assistant Commissioner before becoming Chief Constable of Kent Police in 2004. In 2010, he was appointed Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. A Psychology graduate, Michael has been awarded the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished service.

### Helen Boaden, Director, BBC News

Helen, an English Literature graduate, began her career with the BBC as a news producer with Radio Leeds. Since then she has worked in a variety of roles including Controller of BBC 7, Controller of Radio 4 and, since 2004, Director of BBC News.

### Zhang Xin, Property developer

After achieving a degree in Economics at Sussex and a Masters at Cambridge, Zhang Xin worked on Wall Street before returning to China to pursue a career in real estate. Her company, SOHO China Ltd, has undertaken a series of award-winning building projects that have made her into one of China's most successful property developers.

### Sean Phelan, Founder of Multimap

After taking an Electronic Engineering degree at Sussex, Sean became a programmer for a software consultancy. He then took an MBA, and worked as a media and technology consultant before setting up Multimap in 1995. In 2007, Sean sold his majority stake in Multimap to Microsoft for over £12 million.



## Other high-fliers

### Arts

**Jeremy Deller**, Turner Prize winner and Tate Trustee • **C J Sansom** and **Philippa Gregory**, authors.

### Business

**Sir Robert Wilson, KCMG**, Chair of BG Group • **Hannah Jones**, Vice President: Corporate Responsibility of Nike Inc • **Keith Skeoch**, CEO for Standard Life Investments • **Dame Gail Rebeck DBE**, Chair and Chief Executive, Random House Group • **Shamshad Akhtar**, World Bank Vice-President for Middle East and North Africa Region.

### Law

**Michael Turner QC** • **Richard Wilson QC** • **Richard Miller QC** • **Iain Cullen**, Partner at Simmons & Simmons • **Sandra Davis**, Partner at Mishcon de Reya.

### Media

**Alexandra Shulman OBE**, Editor of UK *Vogue* • **Catherine Mayer**, London Bureau Chief of *TIME* • **Dermot Murnaghan**, News Presenter, Sky News • **Robin Lustig**, BBC Journalist.

### Public service

**Sir Suma Chakrabarti KCB**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice • **Jamie Shea**, Deputy Assistant Secretary General, Emerging Security Challenges Division at NATO.

### Politics

**Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP**, **Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP**, and **Rt Hon Tony Baldry MP**, three of our eight alumni who are currently Members of Parliament • **Festus Mogae**, former President of the Republic of Botswana.

### Science

**Calestous Juma**, Professor of the Practice of International Development and Director, Science, Technology and Globalization Project at Harvard University • **Professor Georgina Mace CBE FRS**, Director of the NERC Centre for Population Biology at Imperial College • **Professor Sir Peter Knight FRS**, at Imperial College.