Events and information to enhance your personal and professional development

Professional and social networking opportunities / Opportunities to meet up with old friends

Career related events to increase knowledge and awareness of current research and thinking
An Introduction to LinkedIn

The Lifelong Learning Centre is running a training session on using LinkedIn on Thursday 28th January from 5pm.

LinkedIn is an online social network for business professionals. It's different than other social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook because it's designed specifically for professional networking -- finding a job, discovering sales leads, connecting with potential business partners - rather than simply making friends or sharing media like photos, videos and music.

This session is designed to help you get the most out of LinkedIn and help you make connections with companies or groups that interest you. We will also help you set-up your profile.

For more information or to book a place please visit our website: www.llc.leeds.ac.uk/events

Can you help the next generation of LLC graduates?

In July 2015 we ran our first ‘alumni networking event’ at which current students were invited to meet ex-students in an informal setting to discuss careers.

Conversation centred around what our graduates are doing after their degree, how they got their job, what the job involves on a day-to-day basis and more. The event went really well and it was great for students to get a real feeling for what it’s like out there in the workplace after university – you can only gather so much from reading websites!

We’d like to run more events like this; would you be interested in helping us by sharing your experiences? If so, please get in touch via llcalumni@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 3212, letting us know what role and sector you’re in and hopefully we can arrange something in the near future. We look forward to hearing from you.
Skills & Library information

My name is Rachel Walls and I work as an Academic Skills Development Tutor at the Lifelong Learning Centre. I support students with skills such as research, writing and time management to help them achieve their goals whilst at University.

These skills are also useful after University so if you think you might benefit from support, please get in touch. I may be able to offer you one-to-one support and I welcome suggestions of topics for Personal and Professional Development workshops. My email is r.e.walls@leeds.ac.uk

Don’t forget that you can still access resources through the University of Leeds libraries. Skills@library (http://library.leeds.ac.uk/skills) have many open webpages that you could continue to consult, and if you fill in a form for a Graduate Library ticket you’ll be able to continue to use the libraries for reference after you’ve left. For an annual fee of £50 you could also secure borrowing rights.

Details about library access, and a link to other useful resources, are available here: http://library.leeds.ac.uk/membership#activate-graduates_of_the_university_of_leeds

Continuing support for your career development

Don’t forget that as a recent graduate of the University you can continue to get careers support from the LLC even after you graduate. We can help you to:

- Think about new directions
- Investigate new careers or new employers
- Find new job opportunities
- Identify and articulate your skills and knowledge
- Enhance your existing CV or create a new one CV which reflects and builds on your university study, your life and work experiences
- Apply for new jobs or roles
- Prepare for interviews in a variety of situations
- Prepare for reviews or promotion at work
- Explore the option of further study

Have a look at the University Careers Centre website to see the variety of services available: http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk. You can continue to use the Careers Centre after your graduation. This includes joining Careers Centre events such as employer visits or employability skills workshops. As a graduate you can also access the Careers Centre jobs database which is exclusive to the University of Leeds. Both events and jobs can be found at https://stars.leeds.ac.uk. You will need to log in using your University of Leeds username and password, which are valid for five years after you graduate. If you cannot remember them, or have any trouble logging in, please contact the Careers Centre: careerscentre@leeds.ac.uk or 0113 343 5295.

Appointment with our Careers Education and Guidance Officer by emailing llcalumni@leeds.ac.uk or telephoning 0113 343 3212
Do you have any news you’d like to share?

Whether it’s something you’re working on, an achievement or an interesting event worth knowing about, do let us know. Whenever you have an article to share, send it to us and it will be published in the next issue of this newsletter. It’s your newsletter, let’s read your news!

Please email your contributions at any time to lifelonglearning@leeds.ac.uk

**Tanya Hartley’s Graduation Blog**

**Graduation Day...the result of the last three years spent at university completing my Foundation Degree in Learning and Teaching. I feel a combination of nerves and excitement, mixed with a feeling of pride and self-satisfaction.**

I meet my fellow students, many who have become close friends. Together we make our way to have our gowns fitted. The University campus is filled with graduates, wearing a variety of coloured gowns. We reminisce about the struggles we encountered during our first year; long hours reading and working on assignments, missing out on family time and social events due to studying. All the hard work was worth it though – we have all ended the journey with our heads held high and with a great sense of achievement.

The ceremony takes place in the Great Hall. The historic buildings of the University and the ceremonial dress give a great sense of grandeur and importance to the day. There is a real buzz in the air, as it finally sinks in that we are graduating!! To read the rest of the blog please go to our website: www.llc.leeds.ac.uk/student-voices/a-students-view-graduation

**Case Study—Stacey Maher**

Stacey completed a BA Child & Family Studies degree in 2015.

‘Within my job role Family Support Worker I have supported children, young people and families with a range of multiple and complex needs. Those needs ranged from domestic abuse and poverty to poor mental and child sexual exploitation (CSE). However I knew that I wanted to focus my career by working in a more specialist service, however prior to university I was not sure which area this would be.

Throughout my studies and independent research at the University of Leeds I was given the flexibility to study areas of particular interest to me, thus I was able to enhance my knowledge on CSE. As I researched, my passion for CSE increased, more specifically I knew that I wanted to work in this field in the future. After gaining my honours degree in May 2015 I began to actively look for work in the field of Child Sexual Exploitation and I continued to read current policy and research on CSE. It was in July 2015 that I applied for a new job role with The Children’s Society.

The West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner funded two new roles throughout West Yorkshire delivering preventative sessions to children and professionals within 25 schools. I was confident with my application, the interview process and the presentation that was apart of the selection process. I have no doubt in my mind that my self confidence, improvement in public speaking and knowledge of CSE was all supported by the fantastic time I had while studying at The University of Leeds. In turn, I was offered the job role and I am now a Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Practitioner delivering awareness raising training to professionals in order to safeguard children and young people from CSE.’
There are lots of different events that are run throughout the year that are open to alumni:

**LLC Events:**
[www.llc.leeds.ac.uk/about/events](http://www.llc.leeds.ac.uk/about/events)
IT sessions, Seminars, Spring into Summer (short courses for pleasure)

**Stage@Leeds:**
[http://stage.leeds.ac.uk/](http://stage.leeds.ac.uk/)
Various theatre performances throughout the year

**Networking Events:**
[www.leeds.ac.uk/info/3000/working_with_business/220/on_your_marks_networking_events](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/3000/working_with_business/220/on_your_marks_networking_events)

**Online courses:**
[www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130503/online_courses](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/130503/online_courses)
These vary from fashion to business

**University of Leeds Events:**
[www.leeds.ac.uk/events/](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/events/)

**Careers Centre:**
[http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk/](http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk/)
C.V and interview techniques / Careers advice

**M&S Archive Events:**
[https://marksintime.marksandspencer.com/whats-on/upcoming-events](https://marksintime.marksandspencer.com/whats-on/upcoming-events)
Various exhibitions throughout the year
Resources for graduate jobs

University Careers Centre: [http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk/](http://careerweb.leeds.ac.uk/)
- Website with information, including information on:
  - What graduates from your subject have done
  - Free on-campus careers-related events
  - Vacancies database [https://stars.leeds.ac.uk/](https://stars.leeds.ac.uk/)
- Information room
- Guidance interviews, drop-in advice and CV-checking
- Careers Fairs and employer visits
- Work experience opportunities
- Skills workshops (e.g. dealing with interviews)
- Support for self-employment

LeedsforLife: [https://leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk](https://leedsforlife.leeds.ac.uk)
- ‘Living CV’: record your experiences, skills, knowledge and reflection about your career development all in one place (available up to 5 years after you graduate)
- Direct link to the Leeds Network; alumni already in careers of whom you can ask questions
- Direct link to the University Volunteering Hub (details of all voluntary opportunities available to students)

Adult Directions: [www.cascaid.co.uk/adultdirections](http://www.cascaid.co.uk/adultdirections)
- Information about many different careers, plus useful links
- Online careers/skills match programme to support career and employment decisions
- Licence code: linktest80

National Careers Service: [https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)
- Information about careers in all sectors, including skills sought, entry requirements, starting salaries, hours of work, training routes, the state of the labour market in the sector and useful further links

Prospects: [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- Information about what graduates in particular disciplines do
- Information about specific graduate careers: locations, hours of work, entry requirements, starting salaries
- Hints and tips about graduate careers
- Graduate job vacancies

TARGETjobs: [http://targetjobs.co.uk/](http://targetjobs.co.uk/)
- Information about graduate sectors and roles
- Information about employers
- Tips for successful graduate job hunting

What Do Graduates Do? [www.hecsu.ac.uk/current_projects_what_do_graduates_do.htm](http://www.hecsu.ac.uk/current_projects_what_do_graduates_do.htm)
- Annual report on graduate destinations
- Statistics for university subjects and main employment sectors

LinkedIn: [https://uk.linkedin.com/](https://uk.linkedin.com/)
- Social media networking site for professionals
- Put your profile up as a ‘online CV’
- Follow organisations, companies and sectors
- Join interest groups
Resources for graduate jobs continue:

Graduate Fog: [http://graduatefog.co.uk/](http://graduatefog.co.uk/)
- Blog for graduates, by graduates: ‘the only graduate careers blog that tells it like it is’

Yorkshire Graduates: [www.yorkshiregraduates.co.uk/](http://www.yorkshiregraduates.co.uk/)
- Graduate jobs in the region

Milkround: [www.milkround.com/](http://www.milkround.com/)
- Graduate jobs site (private sector)

Graduate Recruitment Bureau: [www.grb.uk.com/](http://www.grb.uk.com/)
- Graduate jobs site (private sector)

Gradjobs: [www.gradjobs.co.uk/](http://www.gradjobs.co.uk/)
- Graduate jobs site (private sector)

Graduate jobs: [www.graduate-jobs.com/](http://www.graduate-jobs.com/)
- Graduate jobs site (mainly, but not exclusively, private sector)

GradPlus: [www.gradplus.com/](http://www.gradplus.com/)
- Graduate jobs site (mainly, but not exclusively, private sector)

JobsGoPublic: [www.jobsgopublic.com/](http://www.jobsgopublic.com/)
- Jobs site for public and third sector: local government, charity, education, housing etc

Children and Young People Now jobs: [www.cypnowjobs.co.uk/](http://www.cypnowjobs.co.uk/)
- Jobs working with children and young people (all roles) – mainly public sector

LGJobs: [www.lgjobs.com/](http://www.lgjobs.com/)
- Jobs in local government

NGDP: [www.ngdp.org.uk/](http://www.ngdp.org.uk/)
- Local Government Association national graduate management training programme (2 years)
- Similar programme available at Leeds City Council (applications open spring/early summer each year)

Fast Stream: [www.gov.uk/faststream](http://www.gov.uk/faststream)
- Central government graduate management training programme

Charity Works: [www.charity-works.co.uk/](http://www.charity-works.co.uk/)
- Graduate management training programme (1 Year) for working in the charity sector

Charity Jobs: [www.charityjob.co.uk/](http://www.charityjob.co.uk/)
- Jobs in charities, NGOs, fundraising and not-for-profit organisations

Third Sector Jobs: [http://jobs.thirdsector.co.uk/](http://jobs.thirdsector.co.uk/)
- Jobs in charities, NGOs, fundraising and not-for-profit organisations

- Intern and graduate recruitment agency, specialising in start-ups and SMEs

Graduate Talent Pool: [http://graduatetalentpool.direct.gov.uk/](http://graduatetalentpool.direct.gov.uk/)
- Post-graduation (paid) internships, useful to get experience, explore sectors etc

Rate My Placement [www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/](http://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/)
- Internships, work placements, insight days etc for students
Save the date!

The Lifelong Learning Centre is now 10 years old and we are currently planning a big celebration event on Friday 1st July at 4pm.

We will be inviting present and past students with their families as well as current staff for fun, food and games on campus. If you are keen to attend this event please keep an eye out for information on how to book nearer the time as we anticipate places booking up quickly.

Keeping in touch

Join our Facebook group to keep in touch with other Alumni and hear about upcoming events and jobs:

www.facebook.com/groups/LLCAlumni/

Join our LinkedIn page to connect with other Alumni and find out the most current information about graduate jobs and opportunities.

www.linkedin.com/groups/8427894

Tell us what you think...

If you have any comments, feedback, improvements or articles that you’d like to see in this newsletter, do let us know - we value your input. Please email llcalumni@leeds.ac.uk with your thoughts. It’s your newsletter, we’d like to know what you think!
Perhaps you’ve considered this in the past, but dismissed it - maybe because you’re not sure if it’s for you, or because you’ve been put off due to the question of how you would fund it.

Well, it’s never too late to look at this again, in the light of the recent good news from the government about a new postgraduate loan system starting in September 2016. This means that if you would like to do a Masters course you might be able to borrow £10K from the Student Loans Company, just as undergraduates can for their first degree (subject to personal eligibility). The award is paid directly to you, which means you can use it towards fees or any other costs, as you wish. We are still waiting for the details of how exactly it will work but hope to have full information by the end of January so if you are interested, you are welcome to join our workshop session to find out more:

**Thinking about postgraduate study**  
**Tuesday 2 February 2016, 12pm-1pm**  
**Room 12.20, Marjorie & Arnold Ziff Building**

This session will also provide information about the University’s Postgraduate Scholarship scheme, which is available *in addition* to the government loan scheme.

If you are still concerned that the funding available will not meet your needs, as an LLC alumna/alumnus you can use our subscription to *The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding* at [www.postgraduate-funding.com](http://www.postgraduate-funding.com/) which gives information and advice about other sources of funding which you might be able to tap into. Get in touch with us via [llcalumni@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:llcalumni@leeds.ac.uk) to get password details to enable you to log in. We can also email you a copy of our leaflet *Funding for Postgraduate Study* which has more useful links and information.

If that’s got you interested in the idea of postgraduate study, there’s another date for your diary: Friday 5 February. This is the University’s Postgraduate Open Day; full details here: [www.leeds.ac.uk/info/101060/postgraduate_open_day#section1](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/info/101060/postgraduate_open_day#section1) As you can see, there will be lots of opportunity to gain further information and you can visit departments of interest to meet both staff and current postgraduate students.

It’s a good time to be thinking about coming back to the University of Leeds!

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**Careers Guide for Mature Undergraduates**

*Do employers prefer younger graduates?*

*How will employers view a disability (especially if it relates to mental ill-health)?*

*I’ve got a long employment history; how do I reduce this and/or make it relevant without leaving gaps in the chronology?*

*I haven’t worked since having a family; what can I put down for ‘experience’?*

There is now a new Careers Guide designed specifically for mature students. You can view this online at [http://goo.gl/JLecHY](http://goo.gl/JLecHY)