

University of Manchester: improving employability outcomes

The University of Manchester has been trying out a multi-stranded scheme to get more students from disadvantaged backgrounds into better jobs after graduation. Working via its careers service and alumni office over the past five years, the university has seen the gap between employment outcomes for wider participation and non-wider participation groups narrow. These are just two responses from students who have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by the initiative.

You can read more about how Manchester achieved its results via the original blog post which is at: <http://www.encyexchange.ac.uk/10753/wider-participation-disadvantaged-students-better-jobs-employment/>

Bethany Simmonds, student

I was really worried about attending university before I came, as I was worried I would not fit in. I didn't realise that there would be so many people from the same background as me!

Did that view change when you arrived and if so how?

Yes that changed completely. I realised university was full of people like me and it was opening and welcoming.

What did you get to do / activities did you get involved in thanks to the careers team which you might otherwise not have known about?

Three unpaid vacation schemes at law firms in Newcastle which I would not have been able to afford without the help of the university! This has helped me gain crucial work experience in the sector I want to go into, which would have been so hard to do without the assistance.

What benefits have you seen as a result of that engagement? Would you recommend getting involved to other students like yourself?

I have gained crucial skills and an insight into the sector I want to go into and I would 100% recommend other students in my situation to get involved. I cannot thank the careers service enough for their help.

Jonathan Mason, graduate

My impressions of university were that life on campus would be a bit like a bubble. I've since found this not to be the case. My involvement in Global Graduates has broadened my understanding of the global reach of the university and the opportunities which are offered at Manchester beyond your degree discipline. Also, I did not know of the support networks that are in place to assist students such as the careers service, the counselling service, academic advisers etc. which should be explored and utilised by students.

Would you recommend getting involved to other students like yourself and what benefits have you seen as a result of that engagement?

Definitely get involved with the opportunities which the University of Manchester offers! In 2016 I was fortunate to take part in both Global Graduates and Team Uganda. As a result I was able to travel to two continents that I'd never been to before and to meet some incredible people. Not only have the experiences aided my CV, but they helped create memories which will stay with me for a lifetime.

Efficiency Exchange: EfficiencyExchange.ac.uk