

The Where, Why, What & How of Work Experience for Engineers



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Aims for today

- ▶ The market for graduate engineers
- ▶ Understand why work experience is needed
- ▶ Recognise the different types
- ▶ Identify the opportunities in & outside Warwick
- ▶ Start forming a work experience strategy
- ▶ Realise the role of the social media

Market for Engineering Graduates

- ▶ Job vacancies in engineering have increased by 60% compared with last year's recruitment season (AGCAS survey)
- ▶ 62% of engineering graduates working six months after graduation are employed in engineering or technical roles
- ▶ The majority of graduates will find work in the manufacturing and construction industries, with some going into the City. The "sexier" career at the moment is renewables, where there is also high demand.

What will you have to offer?

- ▶ A good degree from a good University?
- ▶ Work Experience?
- ▶ Personal achievements?
(Higher Education Achievement Record)
- ▶ A unique story to tell?

What Employers Say

“A degree alone is not enough. Employers...particularly value skills such as communication, team working and problem solving. Applicants who can demonstrate that they have developed these skills will have a real advantage.”

Sir Digby Jones, director-general of the CBI



What do employers look for?



Skills audit

Activity	Self-reliance								People skills						General skills						Technical skills				
	motivation	hardwork	ambition	confidence	resourcefulness	decision making	prioritisation	initiative	team playing	leadership	influencing	customer awareness	oral communication	presenting	problem solving	analysis	research	numeracy	report writing	business awareness	inquisitiveness	creativity	IT	foreign languages	other
Extracurricular																									
Student Societies																									
Sports																									
Insight Week/ Work Shadowing																									
Internship/ Placement																									
Year Out/ Intercalated Year																									
Self-Employment																									
Casual Work																									
Voluntary Work																									
Project Work																									
Language Skills																									
Travelling																									

Is all experience good experience?

<http://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/student/employability/employability.jhtml>

Types of Work Experience



- ▶ Not just miniature version of your dream job!
- ▶ Develops
 - ▶ YOU
 - ▶ Your skills
 - ▶ Understanding of the working world

Source: [Student Careers & Skills website](#)

(a) Strategies for finding WE

- ▶ Research employers really well!

Company size, structure, culture, key projects, news, development opportunities, strategic plans, roles available, competition, major technologies and industry developments

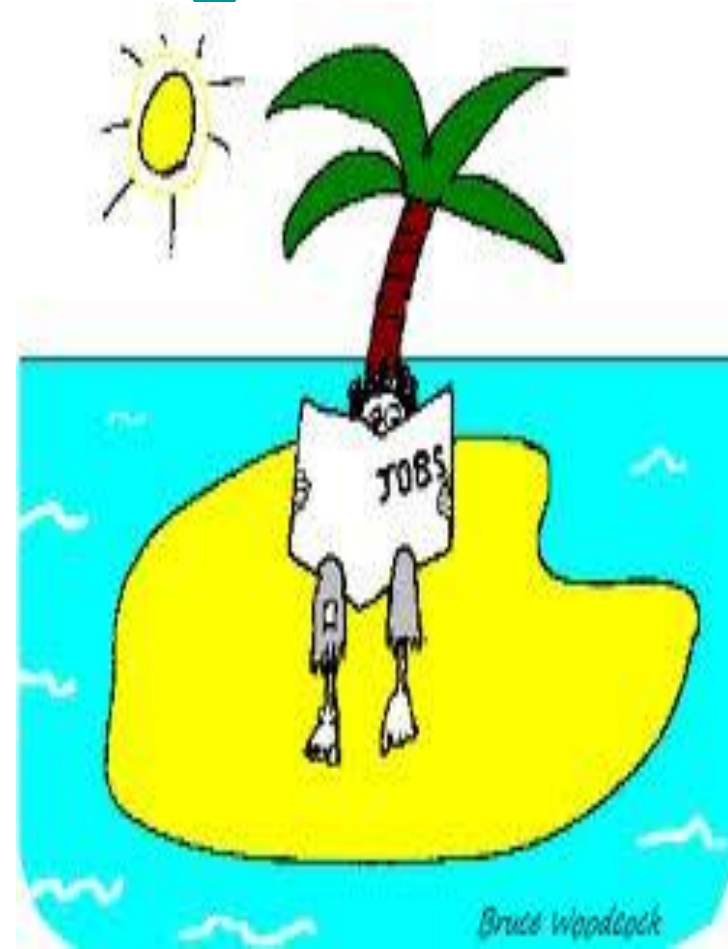
- ▶ Know when and how many to apply to:

September & October best!

Early-bird approach, treat with caution “open deadlines”

(b) Strategies for finding WE

- ▶ Tailor your application documents
- ▶ What are your options with a 2:2?
AB Agri, Airbus, Amey, Babcock,
Jaguar Land Rover, KBR, National
Grid, npower, Shell, Siemens, UK
Power Networks
- ▶ Think small – SMEs account for
99% of all enterprise in the UK!
Use speculative applications



Why apply speculatively?

- ▶ **Did you know: Nearly 70% of all job opportunities are not advertised!**
- ▶ It is useful for finding vacation work, work shadowing or work experience opportunities
- ▶ It is a way to find very specific types of vacancies for example if you have a limited geographical area within you would like to work
- ▶ Shows prospective employers that you really want to work for them
- ▶ Could reduce the competition you face if an employer creates a position for the right candidate.

(a) Where to research employers and work experience

▶ [myAdvantage](#) (vacancies and organisations)

▶ Visit our online resources:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/scs/findingajob/jobsectors/emc>

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/scs/findingajob/vacancies/>

▶ [Yellow Pages](#) , [Applegate](#) - Business directory for industry, manufacturing and technology companies in UK, Ireland

(b) Where to research employers and work experience

- ▶ Check out the newspapers, magazines and journals in your industry of interest
- ▶ [Going Global](#) – global career and employment resources
- ▶ [Fledglings](#)
- ▶ TARGETjobs (Engineering & Employer Insights)
- ▶ Professional Associations/Trade Bodies

(c) Where to research employers and work experience

- ▶ Networking – career events and fairs, family contacts and friends, alumni, personal tutor, lecturers, societies
- ▶ Get a LinkedIn profile, join Twitter and follow the companies that interest you.
- ▶ Use vacancy sites. The advertised vacancies may not be what you are looking for right now but it is a way of identifying employers

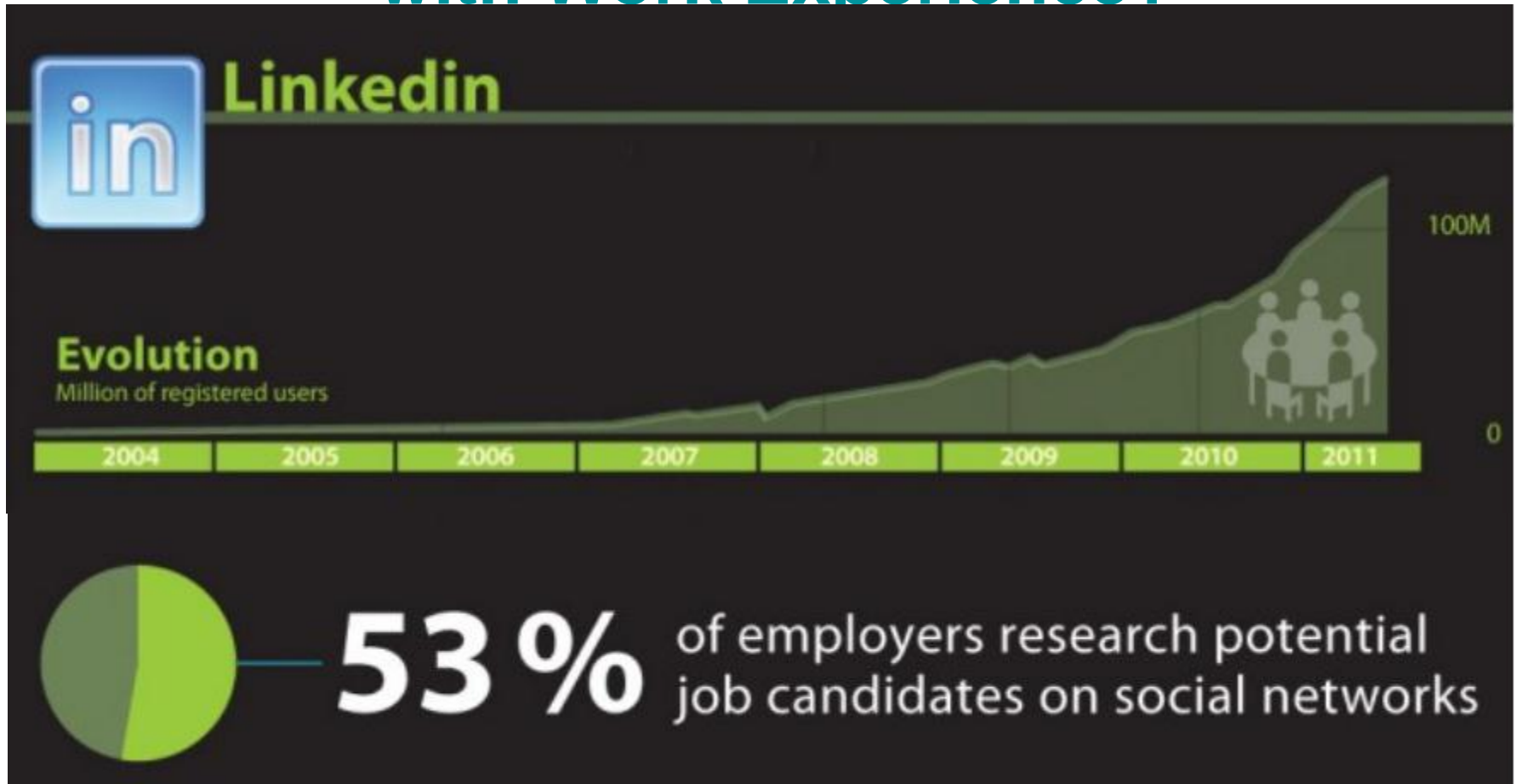
Opportunities on your door step!

- ▶ [Warwick Volunteers](#)
- ▶ [Unitemps](#)
- ▶ Hospitality / SU
- ▶ Societies / Sports Clubs
- ▶ Student Callers / WWS
- ▶ Outreach work within your department?
- ▶ [Warwick in Africa](#)

Opportunities on your door step!

- ▶ Options in Technology, 7 Nov
- ▶ Options in Engineering, 14 Nov
- ▶ Employer presentations
- ▶ Summer Careers Fair
- ▶ For all events visit [myAdvantage](#)

What does the social media got to do with Work Experience?



Source: <http://www.searchenginejournal.com/the-growth-of-social-media-an-infographic/32788/> 22nd July 2012

Some interesting resources

- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQzsQkMFgHE> To set the scene
- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSdXxUx2UhM&feature=plcp> How to set up a LinkedIn profile
- ▶ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iyzZoYBzNU&feature=related> How to use Social Media to get a job (5.28)

Just think about...

- ▶ If you can't get work experience, how confident are you that you will get a job when you graduate?
- ▶ “Luck is no accident”!



The PLU can support you with:

- ▶ Identifying how and where to find work experience
- ▶ Setting and meeting your objectives during your work experience
- ▶ Evidencing skills / experience developed through work related activities for future employers
- ▶ [Warwick Work Experience Bursary](#)

The PLU cannot support you with:

- ▶ Finding you work experience
- ▶ Checking your CV
- ▶ Careers advice

Careers & Skills Services

- ▶ **Job Search Adviser** – CVs, Applications, Interviews, Job Search Advice

[Attend an Effective Applications workshop!](#)

- ▶ **Careers Consultants** – Careers Advice

- ▶ **Placement Learning Officer** - Mon-Fri
10:00-12:00, Learning Grid

- ▶ [Appointments & Drop-ins](#)