

ConnectedFutures

18 - 22 October 2021

Explore • Experience • Connect

Daily Schedule

Monday 18th October – Friday 22nd October Virtual Graduate Jobs and Placements Fair

Monday 18th October – Personal Transformation

- 10:00 – 11:00 How to literally change your life by changing your mind!
- 11:00 – 12:00 How to motivate yourself, your potential employers, managers, customers and clients
- 1:00 – 2:00 How to build your confidence

Tuesday 19th October – Networking & Skills

- 9:15 – 10:00 Turning Point
- 10:00 – 3:00 Part time jobs and opportunities fair
- 10:10 – 11:00 What it is like to be a prison officer
- 11:10 – 12:00 How to get the most out of networking
- 12:10 – 1:00 Tender Lasting Care
- 1:10 – 2:00 First Impressions
- 2:10 – 3:00 Using LinkedIn for Networking
- 3:10 – 4:00 Aspris Children's Service
- 5:25 – 6:30 Future Pro and Finest

Wednesday 20th October – Work Experience

- 10:00 – 11:00 Gaining Work Experience Through the SCIMIA Project
- 10:30 – 11:00 How to Get Involved in Volunteering
- 11:00 – 11:30 An insight into the Staffordshire Advanced Manufacturing, Prototyping and Innovation Demonstrator (SAMPID)
- 11:00 – 11:50 How to Use Gradcracker to Find your Placement
- 12:00 – 1:00 An Introduction to the Government Operational Research Services Placements
- 1:00 – 2:00 Gaining Work Experience Through the SAMPID Project
- 2:00 – 3:00 Gaining Work Experience Through the SDIPs Programme
- 3:00 – 4:00 An Introduction to EDT Placements
- All day

Thursday 21st October – Entrepreneurship

- 10:30 – 11:30 Big Fat Hairy Goals!
- 11:45 – 12:30 Overcoming setbacks to achieve entrepreneurial success
- 12:30 – 1:00 Fully Funded Digital courses? Yes please...
- 1:00 – 2:00 Beinspired and Freelancing & Commissioning
- 2:30 – 3:30 Be Inspired & Meet graduates who've launched their own business
- 4:00 – 5:00 Money matters & tax when freelancing
- 5:00 – 7:00 Spotlight on Law

Friday 22nd October – Apply and Secure Jobs

- 9:15 – 9:50 Application top tips - how to make your application stand out
- 10:00 – 10:50 Find out more about applying for placements and graduate jobs. Get some insider info from a graduate recruitment specialist
- 10:00 – 2:00 DTA Placements Live! (Four, one-hour sessions beginning each hour between 10am-2pm)
- 11:00 – 11:50 A look at the Gradcracker online platform and how this can help with your applications
- 12:00 – 12:50 How to get an interview and what to do once you have one.
- 1:00 – 1:50 "Landing a position at Ubisoft"
- 2:00 – 2:50 Developing your Portfolio for the creative industry
- 3:00 – 3:50 'Breaking into the game industry - and how to land the right role'

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Digital Connected Futures 2021

Connected Futures is the University's annual careers festival. This year we will be hosting a variety of different activities both virtually and on-campus to offer you the opportunity to engage with industry experts and employers.

This year the sessions for the week are broken down into career-related themed days, with a series of workshops and presentations taking place every day.

Booking Instructions

- The sessions will be delivered in MS Teams, Zoom or will take place on campus.
- You need to book a place for any event you are interested in by clicking on the relevant **'Book your place here'** link, below. This will take you to the booking form on MyCareer. If you've not used MyCareer yet, it's the University's career portal with jobs, opportunities and career events. The first time you go in you are asked to fill in some registration information.
- For each session you sign up for you will receive an email with a link or details of the location on once you've signed up for closer to Connected Futures.

Virtual Graduate Jobs and Placement Fair

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd October

Visit virtual employer stalls, find out about jobs and opportunities and arrange 1 to 1 chats with organisations.

Online
Login to
[MyCareer](#) and
go to Events

Day 1 Monday 18th October

Theme: Personal Transformation

How to literally change your life by changing your mind!

10:00am– 11:00am. Presented by Teejay Dowe

I'm just a girl from Stoke on Trent who grew up totally believing I was not good enough. I was painfully shy, had not confidence and settled for second best in everything. Left school at 16, was bullied at work by my boss, left home at 18, was a single parent at 19 and was living in a council house. I thought that was my lot. All I deserved and could be.

That was So not true! I'll share what happened next and where I am today and more importantly, how to literally change your life by changing your mind as I introduce you to my friend "Bob!"



[Book your
place here](#)

How to motivate yourself, your potential employers, managers, customers and clients

11:00am – 12:00pm. Presented by Mo (Harford) Bury, Momentum Training



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Mo has been working independently in the business world for over 15 years helping Leaders, management and employees reach their true potential. She trains and coaches leaders to inspire their teams to achieve more and be more. Mo works with Global household names in civil engineering, facilities management, Law and aviation.

With a 25 year successful sales career, Mo had some pretty good ideas about how to influence people but the last 15 years she has explored the science of influence and persuasion and motivation and will share ideas with you about how not only to motivate yourself but also to motivate your potential employers, managers, customers and clients.

This talk will help you understand more about what makes people do stuff

[Book your place here](#)

How to be more confident

1:00pm– 2:00pm. Presented by Julie Bricknall, Inspired Mindset

A session about building your confidence, communicating assertively and being visible for success



[Book your place here](#)

Day 2 Tuesday 19th October

Theme: Networking & Skills

Part Time Jobs and Opportunities Fair

11:00am – 3pm

The Part Time Jobs and Opportunities Fair is your chance to meet a wide range of employers and providers who have part time work and opportunities available now. This fair will take place on the Ground Floor of the Science Centre on Leek Road.

**Ground Floor,
Science Centre,
Leek Road**

Turning Point

9:15am – 10:00am. Presented by Adrienne Pettitt

Turning Point are a leading Health and Social Care service supporting people with drug and alcohol use, mental health, offending behaviour, unemployment issues and people with a learning disability. Come along and network with us, learn more about what we do, skillsets required and transferable skills you may already have that would work well in this type of role, gaining work experience, application and interviews tips and advice



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What it is like to be a prison officer

10:10am – 11:00am. Presented by Tim Bailey, Staffs University

Tim is a Civic Fellow at Staffordshire University and is also a Prison Officer at Drakehall Prison. This is a great opportunity to network with Tim, learn about the role of a prison officer and the different ranks within prisons. Tim will also talk about the number of prisons throughout the country, population figures and where to source information. Can you have some questions prepared for Tim beforehand. Is there anything you want to know about prison work?



[Book your place here](#)

How to get the most out of Networking

11:10am – 12pm. Presented by Mike Grocott, Intercog

Mike is the Director of a local company who specialise in helping people get the most out of presenting and communicating with other people. At the end of the session, you will have learned the fundamentals of networking which will give you the confidence to network with professionals when building relationships with contacts.



[Book your place here](#)

Tender Lasting Care

12:10pm – 1:00pm. Presented by Isabella Dawes, Tender Lasting Care Services Ltd.

Tender Lasting Care Services Ltd was set up in 2013 and its ethos is built on the courage and bravery of a young man with cerebral palsy who lived in Stone with his parents, the founders of the company. Philippa Core who began as a Support Worker, took over the company continuing the ethics and ethos where it is now run as a bespoke care company making a difference to the lives of young people and adults in the Staffordshire and surrounding areas. This is an exciting opportunity to network with the employer and find out more about their history, legacy, current employment opportunities, work experience and placements as well as engaging in a Q&A.



[Book your place here](#)

First Impressions

1:10pm-2:00. Presented by Chris Austin, Edenfield Solutions

Preparation is key! During this session, Staffs Alumnus Chris Austin will provide a few valuable pointers on preparing for that all important initial encounter. Because you never get a second chance to make a good first impression – topics will encompass elements of personal branding, presentation skills and rapport building.

Attendees will be able to take away a range of easy-to-remember skills and apply them to almost any situation, from online job interviews to face-to-face client presentations or workplace meetings and events.



[Book your place here](#)

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Chris left Staffordshire University in 2010 with a BA(Hons) in Business Management. Since graduating he has undertaken numerous management and leadership roles and is now a Director at Stoke-on-Trent based training and consultancy company Edenfield Solutions Limited. He draws on his knowledge of marketing and branding, customer experience management and Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) to deliver this very relaxed but highly informative session.

Using LinkedIn for Networking

2:10pm- 3:00pm. Presented by James Dean, Hamilton Barnes

Hamilton Barnes, founded in 2014, are a recruitment consultancy specialising in the Network Engineering space. Join George to find out how to optimise your LinkedIn profile for job searching success



HamiltonBarnes

[Book your place here](#)

Aspris Children's Services

3:10pm- 4:00pm. Presented by Jack Smallman

Aspris Children's Services provide support to children with special educational needs and vulnerable young people to achieve their aspirations, no matter what challenges they face. Please join our session where we will be discussing our change over from Priory Group to Aspris Children's Services, our plans for the future which will include expanding our services further to take on more staff and referrals for children – this will include working in the Middle East. As well as this, we would like to emphasise our career progression within the business, we have a lot of staff who have started in entry level roles who are now Registered Managers, and as a business we are very eager to have our staff succeed and show how we will support them on this.

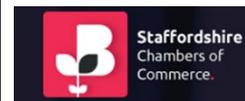


[Book your place here](#)

Future-Pro: Meet the Professionals

5:25pm – 6:30pm.

Future-pro is an annual event that helps to cement relationships between Future Finest, Finest and students who are considering a career in professional services. FuturePro will be hosted on Zoom bringing together our students and local professionals to talk about work experience and life after university.



Staffordshire
Chambers of
Commerce.



Finest.

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Day 3 Wednesday 20th October

Theme: *Work Experience*

Gaining Work Experience Through the SCIMIA project

10:00 – 11:00am. Presented by Esther Winter

SCIMIA (Staffordshire Connected & Intelligent Mobility Innovation Accelerator) driving research and innovation through collaborative knowledge exchange between Staffordshire University and Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP SMEs. You could be involved with helping local companies on a paid placement of up to 12 months to develop a new product, service or process. Find out how you can take part in this project and have the opportunity develop your skills, whilst continuing your training and increasing your employability.



[Book your place here](#)

How to Get Involved in Volunteering

10:30 – 11:00am. Presented by Amanda Ledwood (SU)

The Students' Union will discuss the wide range of volunteering opportunities that they offer. They will also focus on how you can get involved, how to register your interest and the benefits of volunteering.



[Book your place here](#)

How to Use Gradcracker to Find your Placement

11:00 – 11:50am. Presented by Jessica Luck, Marketing director from Gradcracker

Gradcracker is the UK's careers website for STEM students. Students can use the Gradcracker website to search for placements, work experience and graduate jobs. In this session Jess will discuss how to use the Gradcracker website to search and apply for opportunities and network with employers



[Book your place here](#)

An Introduction to the Government Operational Research Service Placements

12:00pm – 1:00pm. Presented by Adam Powell and Sam Weller

Multiple UK Government departments have teamed up to offer a number of 11-13 month Operational Research placements. You will be working at the heart of central government and your conclusions will help shape national policy that will affect millions of people. Our analytical teams cover a broad range of remits from dealing with resource allocation, workforce planning, forecasting, performance measurement, and strategic planning.

In this session we plan to outline what Operational Research is, how Operational Research fits into the civil service, the benefits to a GORS placement and hints/tips to the application process. There will be time following the presentation for Q&A with the presenters who will be Operational Researches currently working in government.



[Book your place here](#)

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Gaining Work Experience Through the SAMPID Project

1:00pm – 2:00pm, Presented by Rachel Wood, SAMPID Programme Manager

SAMPID (Staffordshire Advanced Manufacturing, Prototyping and Innovation Demonstrator) is a new project to the University that supports businesses from Staffordshire. You could be involved with helping local companies on a paid placement based in the Mellor Building to develop a new product, service or process. Find out how you can take part in this project using brand-new cutting-edge manufacturing equipment and have the opportunity develop your skills, whilst continuing your training and increasing your employability. Please note that this opportunity is exclusive to students studying engineering and design courses.



Please note, this talk will take place on campus

[Book your place here](#)

Gaining Work Experience Through the SDIPs Programme

2:00pm – 3:00pm, Presented by James Bennett

The Staffordshire Digital Innovation Partnerships (SDIPs) programme is a collaborative programme between Staffordshire University and Staffordshire County Council to improve business processes and support the development of new to market products. Students will be able to undertake a paid 24 week placement as part of this project and this session will provide you with more information about these placements and how to get involved.



[Book your place here](#)

An Introduction to EDT Placements

3:00pm– 4:00pm. Presented by Baiba Kuka

EDT offer young people active learning experiences in STE(A)M related careers, giving them the opportunity to gain knowledge and exposure that will help them make decisions about their future. They offer a Year In Industry Programme with vacancies at companies working in technology, science, engineering, business and finance across the UK – from leading FTSE 100 companies to small innovative start-ups. The EDT team will give you with information about their Year In Industry programme and provide you with details on how to apply. The team will also be joined by a student who has completed the Year In Industry programme, so you will hear from them about their experiences undertaking a placement. More information about this programme can be found here: <https://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry>.



[Book your place here](#)

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Day 4 Thursday 21st October

Theme: Entrepreneurship

Big Fat Hairy Goals!

10:30am – 11.30am. Presented by David Hyner

In this fun, fast paced, challenging and inter-active presentation, David Hyner will share the simple process that has enabled past delegates to go on and become British and European sporting champions, Amazon no1 authors, entrepreneurs and so much more. Attendees will come away from this event with the knowledge and skills to be able to set and achieve their own MASSIVE goals.



[Book your place here](#)

Overcoming setbacks to achieve entrepreneurial success

11:45am – 12:30pm. Presented by Teejay Dowe

Teejay tells her story about overcoming setbacks to achieve entrepreneurial success



[Book your place here](#)

Fully Funded Digital courses? Yes please...

12:30pm – 1:30pm. Presented by Dina Lewis

This session will give you further information on how to access additional professional training in order to increase your employability skills.



[Book your place here](#)

Beinspired and Freelancing & Commissioning

1:00pm – 2:00pm. Presented by Alison Grade, author The Freelance Bible (1h) & BeInspired Team (15m)

Being a great freelancer is more than being great at working 'in' the work you do – you need to be great at working 'on' your freelancing. In this session you'll learn from author of The Freelance Bible, Alison Grade, how to work 'on' you freelancing. and prepare yourself so you are best positioned to find the work you want to do. You'll learn why freelancing is like dating and how you can use this knowledge to be strategic when winning new clients.

This session will teach you how to build your successful freelance psyche by maintaining a balance of:

Skills – what skills and mindset does a freelancer need?

Finances – what do I really need to live on? How do I value myself?

Desires – how do I find and date clients to win business?



[Book your place here](#)

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This session will give you a framework which you can use to work 'on' your freelancing and build a successful and sustainable freelance career.

BeInspired & Meet graduates who've launched their own business

2:30pm– 3:30pm. Presented by Pin Bragg, Kabana Club & Laura Clamp, Flying Teaspoons

Why not take something you're passionate about and turn it into a business? Have you ever thought about freelancing, contracting or starting your own business? The free 'be inspired at Staffordshire University' project can help you make that dream a reality, take control of your future earnings and embark on a journey that could change your life forever.



[Book your place here](#)

Money matters & tax when freelancing

4:00pm– 5:00pm. Presented by Jane Pallister, BOOMMM

How counting those beans makes you tax efficient



[Book your place here](#)

Spotlight on Law

5:00pm – 7:00pm

For those interested in a career in the law the conference has guest speakers and offers an opportunity to meet law-related organisations at stalls on the ground floor of the Science Centre on Leek Road.

**Ground floor,
Science Centre,
Leek Road**

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Day 5 Friday 22nd October

Theme: Applying for and Securing Jobs

Join us today to pick up some useful hints and tips on:

- Applying for experience, placements and graduate jobs.
- How to stand out from the crowd with your applications and your online presence.
- How to impress and be successful at interviews.

Application top tips - how to make your application stand out

9:15am– 9:50am. Presented by Hannah Lawler, HR Assistant RSM

Hannah will bring one of their students from the Stoke office to talk through their journey with RSM so far. She will also discuss an overview of RSM, how to make your application stand out, the application process at RSM and top tips.

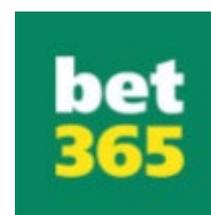


[Book your place here](#)

Find out more about applying for placements and graduate jobs. Get some insider info from a graduate recruitment specialist

10:00am – 10:50am. Presented by Alicia DeBurgh, Recruitment Specialist bet365

Our Graduate recruitment specialist will be covering the Graduate application process from CV writing and initial calls with recruiters through to prepping for a final stage interview. Having been in recruitment for 8 years working with a number of industry leading brands our specialist has seen over 53,000 CV's throughout their career. We will bust some CV myths and provide some solid CV guidance. Interviews can be stressful, especially as a graduate whom may not have attended many. We will walk you through our interview process step-by-step; covering initial calls with a recruiter, phone interviews and face to face interviews. We shall provide interview advice including preparation; questions to ask and what to expect.



[Book your place here](#)

DTA Placements Live!

10:00am– 2:00pm (four, 1 hour long talks beginning each hour from 10:00am-1:00pm). Presented by the School of DTA Academic Practice Team & Careers Coaches

If you are planning to take a year in industry in 2022/23, this session is for you. Your academic practice team and career coaches will be available throughout to answer queries and assist you in applying for a placement role. We will source some relevant opportunities that are currently being advertised, advise on CV's and application forms and support you to submit a "live" application. There will be a presentation, information and access to I.T. equipment on campus. The programme will be repeated on an hourly basis at 10am, 11am, 12pm and 1pm.



[10am-11am](#)
[Book your place here](#)

[11am-12pm](#)
[Book your place here](#)

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Please note, this session takes place on campus and is only available for students in the School of Digital Technologies and the Arts.

[12pm-1pm](#)
[Book your place here](#)

[1pm-2pm](#)
[Book your place here](#)

An Introduction to the GradCracker Career Centre, GradCracker Toolkit, Employer Webinars

11am – 11:50am. Presented by Jessica Luck, Marketing Director from Gradcracker

A look at the Gradcracker online platform – with an overview of the career centre and how students can use this to find out about employers and their opportunities. The Gradcracker Toolkit and Employer Webinars.



[Book your place here](#)

How to get an interview and what to do once you have one

12:00pm – 12:50pm. Presented by Sharna Latch, Internal Recruitment Specialist Synectics Solutions

Welcome to the world of working, the ambiguous process of needing to find a job but having to jump through hoops to get one. How are you supposed to know how to do that? Let's break down the process of applying for a new job role, securing an interview and the dos and don'ts of the interview process.



[Book your place here](#)

Landing a position at Ubisoft

1:00pm – 1:50pm. Presented by Craig Pearn, Talent Acquisition Manager Ubisoft

Solid advice for applying to jobs in games as well as the expectations we have for graduate talent. We'll also cover some info on our graduate initiatives, key dates and what the recruitment process looks like too.



[Book your place here](#)

Developing your Portfolio for the creative industry

2:00pm – 2:50pm. Presented by Adela Harja, University Recruiting Programs Support

Unity (NYSE: U) is the world's leading platform for creating and operating real-time 3D (RT3D) content. Creators, ranging from game developers to artists, architects, automotive designers, filmmakers, and others, use Unity to make their imaginations come to life. For more information please visit:

<https://unity.com/students>

At Unity, we believe the world is a better place with more creators in it. This philosophy is the beating heart of our company.

Join us to be at the forefront of innovation, as we drive exciting technological



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advancements in gaming, entertainment, film, automotive, architecture, engineering, construction, and more – all made possible by the most widely-used real-time 3D development platform.

17 years ago, three people created Unity. Today, we are a company of more than 5,000 individuals, all committed to helping creators around the world achieve their dreams.

Breaking into the game industry - and how to land the right role

3:00pm– 3:50pm. Presented by Sam Jones, Content Manager Fanatical (multi media)

- Intro to Sam and his career
- CV advice and getting an interview
- Finding the right role
- What to avoid when finding a job
- AMA to finish



[Book your place here](#)

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