

## What do Employers Want?

With so many graduates applying for each role, the emphasis on you demonstrating you possess the employability skills that recruiters are looking for is high!

Employers look for candidates who possess and are able to demonstrate a wide range of transferrable skills and expect students to have:

- A good degree
- Participated fully in university life
- Work experience
- Reflected upon and articulated their achievements

Each role you apply for, whether it is a work experience opportunity or graduate role, will have its own knowledge and skill requirements. However, whatever sector or career path you decide to follow, almost all employers will be looking for core skills and competencies.

In general, most employers will be looking for skills such as:

Communication	Time management
Teamwork	Organisation
Leadership	Problem solving
Negotiation	Customer skills
Initiative	Commercial awareness

Embedded within your academic course and harmonious to your subject specific knowledge (and technical skills) you will have the opportunity to develop and evidence the following employability skills:

Creative problem solving	Self-management
Research and analysis	Good communication
Adaptability and resilience	Digital capability
Application of knowledge to create real world solutions	Interpersonal skills and the ability to work alongside others

The above, alongside engagement with the diverse variety of extra-curricular activities available on campus including sports, societies, student representation etc, will enable you to invest further in your unfolding professional development.

Top this with experience and skills gained from community volunteering, part-time work, a summer placement and / or an entire year out work experience opportunity, and the wealth of 'what employers want' evidence at your fingertips is high.

## Skills Development Toolkit

To help you recognise your development, we have created **AberGrad**, a skills development toolkit, defined by year of study which allows you to reflect, engage and record all of your skills based learning.

You are encouraged to develop your own case study examples of evidence around the different skills you are developing. These can support building your CV, whilst additionally working through the **ABERcareers CV pathway** online learning – all accumulating in the refinement of your work experience and graduate job applications and a stock pile of well-crafted skills examples ready to ace those upcoming interviews.

As an Aberystwyth University student, you are also supported with your skills development by your **personal tutor** who will give you the opportunity to discuss your thinking in tutorials throughout your year. In many cases, module course delivery and/or assessment have been designed to encourage your skills recognition and articulation of transferability, so you can easily relate this to employer needs and real world learning.

Within each department, **link careers consultants** run workshops, departmental outreach and one to one appointments to support you with your career management and professional skills development. If you are a student volunteer, the Student's Union offers the chance to goal set and skill build through the SU volunteer award.

So why not get started on developing and targeting the skills employers want today. You can begin by mapping your skills using the [AberGrad](#) resources, taking up the [ABERcareers CV building pathway](#) module, thinking about your skills progression ready for discussion with your personal tutor, engaging with your [departmental careers consultant](#) and by gaining accreditation for skills developed as an AU student volunteer via the Students' Union [volunteer award](#).