Final year
Focus
Prepare yourself for the transition from university to work. What are employers looking for? Do you have examples to demonstrate your skills and experience? Are you work-ready? What changes will you need to make to your lifestyle?

Career
- Continue to work part-time, intern or volunteer to develop your skills
- Apply for graduate programs – applications close February–early April
- Attend on-campus employer presentations
- Attend the UNSW Careers Expo in March to discuss graduate opportunities with employers
- Research employers of interest by looking at their websites, reading media articles, and speaking to people you know that work there
- Search industry-specific job websites
- Be proactive – don’t wait for jobs to fall in your lap. There is a huge hidden job market of unadvertised jobs – what can you do to uncover these opportunities?
- Refine your resume – you know your strengths and skills but does your resume reflect that?
- Practice your interview skills with a Careers Consultant
- Consider questions to ask of an employer – remember you are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you. Plus, well-considered questions will always impress.

Academic
- Continue to maintain a competitive WAM
- Attend postgraduate events on campus and research postgraduate study options.

Personal
- Prepare yourself for entering the world of work – consider the lifestyle changes that this will bring and how you will handle them
- Reflect on how you interact with people. Leave the slang and text speak at university and ensure you communicate politely and professionally with prospective employers
- Audit your social media presence by tightening your security settings and removing anything questionable. A prospective employer will almost certainly do an internet search of your name
- Create a LinkedIn profile to promote your academic and professional achievements and connect with people in your industry.

Helpful links
UNSW Science
- UNSW Science science.unsw.edu.au
- Science Schools: science.unsw.edu.au/schools-and-centres/schools-of-science
- Science Student Centre science.unsw.edu.au/ssc
- Science Student Newsletter Wavelength science.unsw.edu.au/wavelength

UNSW
- Careers Online careers.unsw.edu.au
- Online Handbook handbook.unsw.edu.au
- The Learning Centre lc.unsw.edu.au
- Scholarships scholarships.unsw.edu.au
- The Hub - TheHub.unsw.edu.au
- Counselling and Psychological Services counselling.unsw.edu.au
- International opportunities international.unsw.edu.au/outbound-opportunities
- Diploma of Professional Practice ddp.unsw.edu.au
- Postgraduate Events postgraduate.unsw.edu.au
- Sport and Recreation sportandrecreunsw.edu.au
- Clubs and Societies arc.unsw.edu.au/get-involved/clubs-and-societies

Other Resources
- Online career resources: myfuture.edu.au
graduatecareers.com.au
whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/majors
- Graduate Programs: graduateopportunities.com.au
- LinkedIn: linkedin.com

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UNSWScience

Top 10 Graduate Attributes
1. Interpersonal/communication skills
2. Passion/knowledge of industry
3. Analytical/problem solving skills
4. University grades
5. Workplace cultural alignment
6. Work experience
7. Self-awareness/confidence/motivation
8. Teamwork
9. Extra-curricular activities
10. Leadership

Source: Graduate Careers Australia 2012
UNSW Science

Our degrees equip you with the tools required to challenge existing knowledge, explore new frontiers, and make mind-blowing discoveries. You will have an amazing time studying science at UNSW, but you’ll also need to consider where it could take you.

Planning your future in science

While you’re exploring your academic interests, it’s just as important to explore your career options. Studying science provides you with strong logical, analytical and creative thinking skills that are valuable in any work environment, anywhere in the world.

It’s never too early to start, so let’s start planning your future in science.

First year

Don’t leave it until the end of your degree to start thinking about your career. Employers are looking for well-rounded graduates who are academically strong as well as good communicators, team players, and problem-solvers. Make the most of every opportunity at UNSW to identify your dream career and develop into the perfect candidate.

Focus

– Investigate the wide range of science fields you can study at UNSW
– Develop transferable skills such as time management and communication
– Explore career options

Career

Register at Careers Online and make use of the services, information and advice available
– Research career options related to your degree through the Science Schools’ resources
– Explore other online career resources
– Search online for jobs and candidate requirements and figure out what you need to do to be considered for such a role in the future. Set up email job alerts
– Attend careers workshops such as resumes, cover letters, networking and vocational guidance
– Create a draft resume and keep track of all your achievements
– Gain work experience by taking on a part-time or volunteer position

Attend the UNSW Internship and Volunteer Expo in July

– Investigate professional bodies and organisations to join
– Investigate scholarships available to you

Academic

– Choose courses that interest you whilst fulfilling your academic goals
– Clarify your degree requirements:
  1. Read the Online Handbook
  2. Attend the Science Majors Q&A session held in first semester
  3. Visit or contact the Science Student Centre
– Explore our website for everything you need to know about Science at UNSW and the wide range of science subjects available to you
– Visit The Learning Centre to:
  • Access the First Steps website for new students
  • Attend an academic skills workshop, conversation class or online writing workshop
  • Book an individual consultation
  • Subscribe to Wavelength, the Science Student Newsletter
– Investigate international opportunities such as exchange, international volunteering and other overseas programs.

Personal

– Settle in. University is very different to school, work or home, so don’t worry if you aren’t comfortable straight away – we offer lots of support to students throughout their study lives
– Visit The Hub to get advice and find out about opportunities such as:
  • Finding a mentor
  • Volunteering
  • The UNSW Leadership Program
– See a counsellor at Counselling and Psychological Services if you need someone to talk to
– Meet people and develop new skills through participating in clubs and societies, sports and recreation, and volunteering
– Connect with us via Facebook and Twitter and keep in touch with all our latest news.

Middle years

Focus

Now you know where to find your labs, lectures and the best coffee on campus, take some time to work on your professional development.

Career

– Discover new career possibilities in your area of interest by talking to your lecturers, reading media articles and speaking to people working in the field. Think globally.
– Gain work experience by taking on a part-time or volunteer position
– Gain career-related work experience by undertaking an internship
– Attend the UNSW Internship and Volunteer Expo in July
– Look for summer scholarships and other vacation opportunities
– Attend the UNSW Careers Expo in March to discussvacation and graduate opportunities
– Attend the UNSW Careers Expo in March to discussvacation and graduate opportunities
– Attend an academic skills workshop, conversation class or online writing workshop
– Book an individual consultation

Personal

– Attend a careers workshop such as interview skills, occupational guidance, assessment centres, and psychometric testing
– Reflect on the career direction you have in mind and consider whether your skills, interests, goals and values have changed. Do you have what it takes to be successful in that field?
– Talk through your career goals with a Careers Consultant
– Consider applying to be a Science Student Ambassador through Careers Online
– Consider undertaking the Diploma of Professional Practice if your WAM is above 65
– Update your resume – seek advice from a Careers Consultant and to get your resume to the top of the pile.

Academic

– Declare your major if your degree requires you to do so
– Maintain a competitive WAM and if you need help, just ask. Support is everywhere, such as your School, the Science Student Centre, and the Learning Centre
– Check that you’re fulfilling your degree requirements by reviewing the Online Handbook or contact the Science Student Centre
– Look for scholarships you may now be eligible for
– Develop strong professional relationships with your professors, tutors and supervisors – they could be a future referee or may need a research assistant.

Personal

– Develop leadership, teamwork, organisational and interpersonal skills through taking an active role in clubs and societies, sports and recreation, and volunteering.