Employment in education

For Maria Currant, education has evolved from an interest, to a degree choice and now into a career. ‘I have always had a keen interest in working within a careers department since being in school, but wasn’t sure how I could go about doing this. This is one of the main reasons why I decided to study Education studies as the possibilities are endless with what you can do with this degree.’

After graduating she saw an assistant role advertised within the University of Hertfordshire’s Careers, Employment and Enterprise service. She joined the team through the University’s graduate scheme, before becoming a permanent member of staff as the DLHE (Destination of Leavers from Higher Education) officer. Whilst her primary role is around supporting the DLHE survey, including supporting data collection and liaising with key stakeholders, she also continues to work with students and recent graduates.

‘Each day is different and no student has the same question or query, it’s so interesting hearing how individuals aspire to different career paths. I love enabling these students to gain the most from our service and reaping the rewards from doing so.’

A range of options

Maria is keen to stress that teaching isn’t the only route for those who’ve studied Education. ‘Keep your mind open to all the possible jobs that Education Studies allows you to do. I would say try to do work experience, work shadowing or even, like me, a graduate scheme in your chosen area to allow you to see all the other possibilities within that sector that you may not have considered before.’

She also stresses the importance of transferable skills and the breadth of knowledge that she was exposed to. ‘The best part of my course was the fact that the subject content was so broad; we explored contemporary issues in education and society, the philosophy and psychology of education, learning theory and education literature. All this information has enabled me to have a wide understanding of the Education Sector and beyond. Even though I still use some of the knowledge I learnt, in my role it is more about the transferable skills that I put into practice throughout my degree – some of the key ones are personal motivation, organisation and time management.’

Future plans

For all the educational benefits, one of the best aspects of Maria’s degree is the friends that she made. ‘My best memories from university are the people I met and the memories we made whilst having fun and studying for our degrees. I made friends that will be with me for life.’

For the moment, Maria is happy balancing work within the Careers, Employment and Enterprise sector with competing her horses weekends. ‘I really enjoy working with the Careers sector and all of the different parts that make up a successful Careers Service. I love helping students reach their dream career goals and ensuring their degrees are valued by employers.’

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