GRADUATE
EMPLOYMENT

Women graduates do better than men in the job market

Female graduates are more successful in obtaining employment than male graduates according to a recent survey by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services.

The survey found that 45% of women obtained permanent employment within six months of graduating, compared to only 42% of men.

Even in traditionally male areas like engineering, physics and chemistry women tended to do better and they obtained the largest share of the jobs which don’t require a degree in a specific subject. Overall, women did better in 13 out of the 19 subjects analysed in the survey, especially in art and design, biological science, psychology and sociology.

Advisors and recruiters who responded to the survey suggest that the reasons for this may be that generally women planned their careers more carefully, have relevant job experience and prepare very thoroughly for interviews. According to Ben Ball, Director of the Career Development Unit, “It’s part of a consistent pattern. Every year fewer women graduates are unemployed than men.”

The survey reveals that 44% of graduates were employed within six months – 13% more than the year before. However, under-employment is clearly a factor in this, as increasing numbers of graduates have accepted employment in areas not normally associated with graduate recruitment. Unemployment levels are similar for vocational and non-vocational degrees - for example 13% for both sociology and for engineering.

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LIFE AS A MATURE
STUDENT AT SUSSEX
— in three minutes

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Mature student Bryn Roberts and 'Three Minutes' Director Ben Summers prepare for filming

Every weekday afternoon between Home & Away and the early evening news, Meridian Television’s Three Minutes programme offers viewers on the South Coast a brief glimpse of other people’s lives. Past subjects have been many and varied, with little in common but their positive outlook on life, and when the production team came to Sussex in search of a mature student to film, History of Art finallist Bryn Roberts seemed an appropriate choice.

A former journalist, shopkeeper, landscape gardener and actor, Bryn came to Sussex after completing an Open University degree which he had started following the closure of his Tunbridge Wells bookshop. “The production team wanted to show someone who had returned to education at a late stage and I suppose I fitted the bill,” he explained. “The director, Ben Summers, was particularly interested in my feelings about being a mature student surrounded by young people, and I tried to describe the kick I get from hearing their radical ideas which I’d never have come up with on my own.”

Despite the programme title, filming – in the Library’s Mass Observation Archive – took three hours, but Bryn took it all in his stride. “When I was acting professionally, a three minute piece could take one or two days to perfect, so I didn’t mind this at all.”

The Three Minutes team were pleased with the results, and hope that Bryn’s example will show viewers how academic institutions are opening their doors to students, regardless of age or background, and inspire potential mature students to return to education.
What the papers say . . .

A report (summarised in the Bulletin, 20 January) calling for state help to prevent single parent families becoming marginalised through their inability to afford basic communications such as the telephone and the TV, proved extremely controversial and sparked off a heated and on-going debate in the Evening Argus. According to Professor Silverstone (CCS), who was involved in the project, such communications are essentials rather than luxuries. "If single parents are not doomed to become the 'information poor' these items should be subsidised." This was not a view shared by the Department of Social Security or the Evening Argus.

A report in the Financial Times (13 January) points out that the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) designed to outlaw such horrific substances as nerve and mustard gasses has failed to come into force as not enough countries, including the US, have ratified it. The Clinton Administration is keen to back the CWC but conservatives within the Republican majority in Congress argue that the treaty is intrusive to US industry, expensive and near impossible to police. The report quotes Dr Julian Perry-Robinson (SPRU) who said; "If you look at a large economy like the US it would be impossible to ensure that chemical weapons aren't being produced." However, he points out; "In smaller developing countries it is easier to check and, on balance, the CWC does help prevent proliferation."

Dial 3333 in an Emergency

There have recently been one or two incidents where University staff have seemed unaware of the correct procedures for obtaining help when people have been injured. Dr Peter Ballance, University Safety and Radiation Protection Advisor, says "It is vital in every case that the correct procedures are followed" and restates them below for readers of the Bulletin:

For most incidents:
1. Summon the nearest local first aider (names on first aid boxes or at porters' desks). People with minor injuries may go to the Health Centre during normal working hours.
2. If the local first aider is not immediately available and the injury suggests that first aid is needed immediately, dial ext. 3333. This will alert either the University switchboard in working hours or the security control room at other times. These control centres will direct (by radio) mobile first aiders to your casualty. If you are not in a building, you may be near one of the new EMERGENCY TELEPHONES located next to the main campus walkways and which will place you in direct contact with the 3333 emergency service.
3. If it is obvious an ambulance will be required, follow procedures 1 and 2 and when you dial 3333 to request the ambulance state clearly the number of casualties and the precise location - do not ring off until the switchboard has confirmed they have all your information. By dialling 3333 to summon the ambulance, you have ensured that mobile first aiders will be directed to the casualty to render assistance before the arrival of the ambulance. Dialing 3333 will also ensure that the ambulance is met and guided to the injured person. It is important therefore that you do not dial 999.

For emergencies outside working hours
First aid may be obtained from the Security Office, either by dialing 3333 using any internal telephone or one of the external EMERGENCY TELEPHONES, or by taking the casualty to the Security Office in York House.

For injuries involving chemicals, biological material or radioactive material:
Follow procedures 1 and 2 above, but also seek the assistance of an occupational first aider (names on first aid boxes and at porters' desks).

If the occupational first aider is not available, summon the mobile occupational first aiders by dialing 3333. They will be contacted by radio.

Dr Ballance, on behalf of everyone at the University, wishes to thank all the first aiders whose professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication contributes substantially towards campus safety.
How to be a Lottery Winner

Your chances of picking the winning lottery jackpot numbers are about 1 in 14 million, according to John Haigh, Chair of Mathematics, (Bulletin 28 October 1994). But did you know there are other ways of getting your hands on lottery cash – through one of the five ‘Good Causes’ it supports?

The National Lottery Act 1993 provided the statutory framework for the first National Lottery in the UK for over a century. With 50% of the lottery income returned in prize money, 10% covering operating costs, and 12% going to the state in taxes, 29% – an estimated £750 million in the first operating year – is available for good causes.

The five ‘good causes’ nominated in the Act equally share the net proceeds of the lottery:

- 20% for Arts projects
- 20% for sports projects
- 20% for projects connected with the national heritage
- 20% for charitable expenditure
- 20% for projects to mark the year 2000 and the beginning of the third millennium.

Of course, applicants face stiff competition for the funds available, which is why it makes sense for University bids to be co-ordinated – already there are potential bids developing for funds from the Arts and Sports Councils and the Heritage Fund.

All University bids for monies from the National Lottery should be approved by the Vice-Chancellor, and he wishes them to be co-ordinated and aided by the Development Office in Sussex House. Development Officer Robin Street asks that colleagues interested in submissions should make contact with him. His office is planning to maintain a central library of bids, their progress and final outcome, for the guidance of future applicants.

In addition to guidance notes issued by the various boards distributing lottery cash, the Development Office is able to provide access to information on other potential sources of philanthropic funds.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The last few years have shown tremendous developments, achievements and growth at the University; there is a renewed sense of purpose, direction and well-being. There is also a feeling that we are no longer walking alone, but in partnership with another establishment – the University of Brighton. When will it be the right time to face the issue of full merger?

A combined University of Sussex would be formidable indeed, drawing upon the undoubted strengths and financial resources of both institutions – more faculty, more students, but also greatly enhanced facilities – hopefully, based on the whole of Stanner Park in architectural harmony with the present surroundings, rather than a ridiculous multi-campus fiasco. [Development costs could be paid for from the sale of the Brighton University properties (some of which are prime centre sites)].

Already there is the ‘Joint Marketing Unit’, the ‘Sussex Innovation Centre’, the ‘Academic Corridor’, shared MSc courses, a degree of co-ordinated library planning, the Nynex link... Is it just a matter of time?

What do Bulletin readers think?

Marco A. Frieslaar (ENGG 1987-90)

London to Brighton Bike Ride – June 1995

About 20 cyclists are required to form a Sussex University Staff Team to take part in the June London to Brighton Bike Ride in aid of the British Heart Foundation. If anyone is interested, contact Graham Curry, ext 3914/8221 in the Refectory, Room 201. Any standard acceptable – first come, first served.

In Brief

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

For more information, call Mylene Powell in the Research Office, ext 3812 (mornings only), email: M.G.Powell@sussex.

EUROPEAN UNION RESEARCH FUNDING: presentations and individual consultations for beginners on WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY: enquiries to Clem Smith, 8238.

SOFT SOLIDS RESEARCH PROGRAMME launched by EPSRC. Areas of interest for first call: new soft materials, their chemistry and processing; novel processing of soft materials; control and optimisation of microstructure and flow during processing; sensors, including chemical, physical, tomographic and other types; characterisation and properties of pastes; modelling of soft solid processes; stability, dispersion (including mixing) and aggregation.

CATALYSTS & PROCESSES and CLEANER SYNTHESIS RESEARCH PROGRAMMES launched by EPSRC and BBSRC. Closing date 13 Feb. 95.

BT SHORT-TERM RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, for post-docs and more senior researchers to spend six weeks in British Telecom labs, £3000 plus expenses. Primary areas, electronics and software engineering, but also linguistics, biology, psychology. Closing date 28 April 95.

ICELAND: British Council grants to start up collaboration on the environment and earth sciences, with priority to pollutant transport and marine science. Closing date: 28 Feb. 95.

Travel Loans

A reminder that interest-free travel loans are available to all staff through the Payroll Office. These are for road/rail cards or bus passes. Forms may be obtained from the Payroll Office, Sussex House. At least a week’s notice should be given before the loan is required.
Sunday 3 February
2.15pm SPRU Seminar Programme: Capturing Global Environmental Values. Prof. D. Pearce (University College, London), EDB 121.

CCE University Saturday Schools

Saturday 11 February
Birds in Winter: Discover birds’ secrets of survival throughout the winter months.

Saturday 18 February
Introduction to Assertiveness: How assertiveness can improve communication skills.
Wildlife of Sand Dunes: Survey the ecology and geography of European dunes.
Iron Making in the Roman Empire: Study the growth, technology and economics of iron making in the Roman Empire.
Impressionist & Post-Impressionist Influences in British Painting: A look at the impact of these two waves of influence.
Post-Medieval Palaeography: An introduction to reading old writing.
Reduced rates for students and staff. Enrol with CCE on 678527.

Career Development Unit

Talks
Tue 31 Jan, 12.30: Postgraduate Study in the US
Mon 30 Jan, 10-1: Mock Interviews
Wed 1 Feb, 10-12: Designing & Using Your CV
Thu 2 Feb, 10-12: Making Applications Succeed
Fri 3 Feb, 10-12: Preparation for Interviews

Professional Skills Development
Tue 31 Jan, 10-4: Team Working Skills
Wed 1 Feb, 10-3:30-5:30: Production Management
Pre-book is essential for all of the above. A £5 deposit is required for workshops. Contact CDU on ext. 8429 for further details.

Endsleigh Insurance

Endsleigh Insurance Services are pleased to announce that the office in Falmer House will be open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday from Thursday 26 January. We have massive rate reductions on motor insurance so contact us for an immediate quote on ext. 3325.

 Mature Students Group

Please note that the AGM scheduled for Tue 24 Jan will now take place on Tue 21 Feb.

Miscellaneous

REFECTORY: 2 course meal for only £1.99. Monclay to Friday in the Level 2 Restaurant.
LUNCHTIME RECITAL: Charles Macdonald Organ. Tue 31 Jan, 1.20pm in the Chapel.
RECYCLING: Please send used copy cartridges from photocopyers or laser printers to Gillian Hall at York House Reception who will recycle them on behalf of the Scouts.

Small Ads

FOR SALE: Peugeot touring bicycle, Blue, 21" frame. Excellent condition. £120 ono. Also Coventry Eagle bicycle, Blue and gold. 19" frame. Excellent condition. £90 ono. Contact 501062
TO LET: A few weeks avail. in 3 bed villa overlooking sea in quiet area of Costa del Sol. 30 mins east of Malaga airport. Pool incl. & tennis avail. £175 pw. Contact Tricia on ext. 830735.
TO LET: Spacious 2 bed flat nr Hove BR. All facilities, easy parking. Avail. for 4-6 months from early March. £520 pcm. Suit visiting academics or p/gs. Contact Tania Funston on 708481.
TEMPORARY HOME desperately sought for 2 beautiful mature cats. Owners going abroad for 4 months. All expenses paid. Contact Tania Funston on 708481.
TO LET: 1s in 4s house. Park Crescent Rd. £45pw excl. Lounge, bath, shower, garden & all mod cons. Contact 671429. Available now.
FOR SALE: Baby Belling. £50 ono. Good working order. Contact Ross on ext. 8746 or 734790.
TO LET: Spacious room with use of all facilities in 5-ways area. £55pw. Visiting Fellow or p/g only. Contact 887761.
AVAILABLE: Full-time nanny /childminder. Contact ext. 3424 or 550968.
VACANCY: in MRC Cell Mutation Unit for a ph scientific officer (research assistant) to carry out diagnostic studies on genetic diseases. Candidates should have science degree, pref. Biology or Biochemistry. Contact Prof. Alan Lehmann on ext. 8122 for details.
TO LET: Holiday cottage in Tuscany. Information and photographs 01792 924 7557.
TO LET: Walking distance from campus, room in female non-smoking farm house. Contact 685128.
FOR SALE: Aluminium tripod, £25; 35mm slide projector, £35; 500mm lens, £110; Lotus Organiser for Windows, £5; Laptop, 486, £900; Canon Bubble Jet printer, £110. Contact Rez on 602310.

Bulletin

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