**Five Year Career Planning**

* Traditionally, having a career strategy involved visualising yourself in a specific role five years from now and identifying what career objectives need to be achieved to get there. For some people this is possible, but for others that might prove more difficult. The key thing is to continuously check and realign your career objectives with your definition of career success. This might include gaining more work experience/volunteering to improve skills and experience; postgraduate study; changing industry or profession; taking on more responsibility at work; gaining further qualifications or getting promoted.
* **Whatever your level of study and then beyond graduation, regularly re-evaluate what might change in five years and keep updating your Five Year Career Plan**
* Current career planning needs short-term goals to stay on track to a longer-term career direction that is adaptable, with regular reviews to ensure that it is current and relevant.
* **In Part 1, list longer term goals that you want to achieve.**
* **In Part 2, set short-term goals by completing an Action Plan for each goal. You short-term goals are things that you can do to help you to achieve your longer term goals.**

**PART 1**

In this section, define the bigger picture of what you want to achieve over the next five years. Before you get started, you may find it useful to watch the [Exploring & Setting Career Goals video](https://mmutube.mmu.ac.uk/media/Your+5+Year+Plan+%7C+Exploring+%26+Setting+Career+Goals/1_esugc6fk) by your Careers Adviser Kirstin Burke. Some examples are given for you, which you can delete.

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| **Five Year Career Plan: Develop a long-term professional vision – what do you hope to achieve in 5 years?**  The idea of career planning five years ahead may seem daunting and having a clear-cut plan in today’s ever-changing employment landscape can be difficult. It’s not necessarily about knowing exactly what you want to do or even having a definite job role in mind, but about having a strategy that equips you to notice and maximise any potential opportunities that come your way, to develop your employability and map out realistic goals. | | | | | |
|  | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 |
| **My goals** | Improve my self-confidence and communication skills to a level where I feel competent.  Find out more about the sort of jobs that I could apply for with my degree as I am not sure what I want to do. Having a clearer idea of my career options will help me to plan for future years. | **Improve self-confidence so I don’t doubt my skills.**  **Improve communication skills so I can contribute more to helping others whether that is within a group project or just helping another person who is struggling.**  **Learn and Improve skills used in the course so that I understand the work better. Improve skills so that they are more advanced for the workplace.**  **Learn about the UK data laws to make sure whichever career path I continue in is legally executed.**  **Improve on my ethical decision-making skills to help my decision making later if needed for my future career.**  **Find out more about the skills employers are looking for so that I can stand out amongst the other candidates.**  **Look into jobs that I can apply for with my degree, so I have a better understanding what they expect.**  **Decarbonize my coding to help the environment.**  **Spend more time focussed on my course.** | **Learn other topics within Computer Science that aren’t taught within the course to expand my skill level. E.g., cybersecurity.**  **Improve on my CV so that it is more tailored towards graduate jobs.**  **Look for jobs for when I graduate.**  **Spend more time on the course to ensure that I get the highest grade that I can.**  **Complete more courses on LinkedIn so that I can improve skills and show them to the employers.**  **Prepare for interviews so I know what to expect and can be comfortable.**  **Continue improving my self-confidence and communication skills.** | **Look more into master’s or PhD degrees so that I can improve my skills.**  **Continue improving my self-confidence and communication skills.**  **Improve my coding skills by attending hackathons.**  **Keep up to date with the computer science world so I know when new skills need to be learnt or something has changed.** | **Complete a master’s or PhD degree if I have found one.**  **Continue improving my self-confidence and communication skills.**  **Keep improving my CV with skills that employers look for.**  **Maybe change jobs so that I can get experience within other fields.**  **Stay up to date with the Computer Science world.** |
| **What do I need to do to achieve my goals?** | Investigate opportunities available through RISE, the Science and Engineering Enrichment programme and LinkedIn Learning.  Go to at least one employability event and speak to some employers. | **Listen to/ attend motivational speeches.**  **Take part in group activities like hackathon to help improve my communication.**  **Talk to tutors if I get stuck or research and learn more about the specific skill and do activities that practise the skill.**  **Research the UK data laws and try to understand them.**  **Practise my ethical decision-making skills by completing more LinkedIn courses.**  **Attend employer events and ask questions more about what the perfect candidate is. I can also use the events to find possible future jobs.**  **Make sure my code is efficient and not repetitive to help decarbonise it.**  **Dedicate more time to my course and the work within my course rather than being on my phone.** | **Find out what other topics are within computer science and spend extra time learning them to help increase my skill level.**  **Attend a careers activity that focusses on CVs.**  **Attend post graduate job events and try and find some I like.**  **Complete the recommended 40hrs on my course to help get the best grade I can.**  **Find and complete LinkedIn courses that help to elevate my skills.**  **Carry out practise interviews to help prepare myself for interviews.**  **Attend group activities to help improve my interpersonal skills.** | **Look into the masters and PhD degrees that are offered at the university and see which ones suit my degree.**  **Attend group activities to improve my interpersonal skills.**  **Attend coding activities that help me to improve my coding skills.**  **Follow the changes to the computer science world on social media so I stay up to date.** | **Spend all my possible time on my Master/PhD if I have found one to make sure I do best performance.**  **Work on interpersonal skills by getting a job and interacting with other employees.**  **Complete LinkedIn courses to add more skills to my CV.**  **Look into other jobs with different skills so I can get a feeling of which job would be preferable.**  **Follow the changes to the computer science world on social media so I stay up to date.** |
| **What support & resources will I need?** | To understand the range of jobs, open to me I will also look at the Careers & Employability website, and may need to speak to a Careers Adviser. | **To improve interpersonal skills, I will need to investigate when group activities are available. May need to sign up for a newsletter for hackathon to know when it is occurring.**  **To understand the perfect candidate and what jobs are available to me, I could speak to a career’s advisor.**  **Will require tutor’s support when trying to improve/ understand skills taught within the course.** | **Get tutors support about other topics within computer science that could be helpful to my future career.**  **Speak to careers advisor about my CV and get their help so it is better suited towards employers.**  **Speak to careers about upcoming employer events and their dates.** | **Speak to Careers advisor about a further degree and get advice on which ones might be more appropriate.**  **Speak to tutors about upcoming coding activities.**  **Follow technology companies on social media to see what the future will be like within computer science.** | **Follow technology companies on social media to see what the future will be like within computer science.**  **Follow multiple different companies so I can know when new jobs positions are available.** |
| **What training & qualifications will I need?** | I need some training in how to give good presentations. | **I need some training on my interpersonal skills.**  **I also need qualifications to show to the employers like a certificate from completing a hackathon.** | **I need some training on improving my skills like writing reports and structuring them to be concise.**  **I need training within interviews so that I can prepared for future interviews.** | **A master’s or PhD qualification if one is suitable for my future.**  **I need training on my coding skills.** | **Complete master’s or PhD qualification if one is found.** |

**PART 2**

In this section, define what actions you will take to ensure that you meet the objectives that you set yourself in Part 1. One example is included below. This action is the first step in achieving the goal of improving presentation skills. The next action could be to sign up for the Public Speaking activity in the Science and Engineering Enrichment programme, after completing the LinkedIn training. It would provide a good opportunity to put into practice what you have learned on LinkedIn, develop your skills further, and so help to develop your confidence when giving presentations.

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| **Immediate Action Plan** | |
| **My goal:** Improve my presentation skills | |
| **How am I going to achieve my goal?** | I will complete some LinkedIn training on the subject of presentation skills. When I feel more confident in my skills I will sign up for the Science and Engineering Enrichment activity for Presentation Skills & Public Speaking Development. |
| **Do I need any support or resources to help me achieve my goal?** | I have access to LinkedIn Learning. |
| **Do I need any training or qualifications?** | No |
| **Next steps** | Complete the LinkedIn course Develop Your Presentation Skills. |
| **Target date** | 15th October. Then I can put what I have learned into practice when I do the presentation in week 6 of Graduate Skills. |