

# **Career Talks with Students/Young Professionals**

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# **Genesis of this talk**

1. Founded on existing concerns
2. Take charge while its early to mold the iron
3. Foster culture of professionalism at early stage
4. Get clear road map from the start
5. Create essential connections
6. Do activity with wider “public good” benefit

**What are your expectations?**

## **Objectives/aims**

- 1. Academic Guidance** – study skills, academic planning for post-undergraduate study
- 2. Career Advice** – job shadowing, resume critiques, interviewing tips, general career guidance
- 3. Personal Development** – networking and personal connections

## **Why the talk with students?**

1. Unprepared, nervous, clueless in career pursuit
2. Stiffer competition in global career market
3. Students' attitude
4. Useful and practical
5. Immediate skills
6. Eye-opening

## **What are the anticipated benefits of this forum?**

1. An insight into your academic work and career;
2. Practical tips on planning a successful job and post-graduate search;
3. Advice and guidance with your career thinking and your transition from undergraduate to a young professional
4. Developing understanding, skills and problem-solving
5. Identifying areas for development and improving self confidence
6. An informal network of career contacts
7. Identify needs for a structured dialogues

# Why early preparations for post-graduate opportunities matters?

Poor performance



& Vice versa

Deemed potential for scholarships and  
career prosperity

## **End results?**

1. Career paths gets fuzzy
2. We produce less competitive youths/young professionals
3. You get few feedback from applications – both jobs and academic
4. Extended period of “tarmacking”
5. Indifference to personal growth
6. Social evils – chewing, drinking and menace to society
7. Disgruntled youths;
8. Challenges as a society – inordinate costs





# Questions??



## **Positioning yourself for post-graduate opportunities**

1. Ultimate target is to get good degree (the goal)– 1:1 or 2:1
2. Develop requisite skills for the market – writing, analytical, presentation etc..
3. Get necessary affiliations and accreditations
4. Expand your knowledge
5. Stay up-to-date
6. Don't ignore those internships - experience remains great drawback
7. Always (when possible) be more strategic in your choice than opportunistic

**Think Career, Manage Career**

*“People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, if they can't find them, make them”*

**GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

# Putting this together



# Develop Career Vision

1. Do you have a vision of your own?
2. In what industry or profession would you most like to work?
3. What are the qualities of the role you're seeking?
4. What salary do you need? What salary do you want?

## **QUICKLY WRITE DOWN:**

**At least 5 choices/job titles/roles that you believe you could seriously consider in future.**

# Art of Marketing

1. Schedule occasional meeting for networking (preferably with a mature expert);
2. Become active in your industry association;
3. Join groups outside work where you can meet new contacts;
4. Do as much personal skills training and development as you can;
5. Don't be afraid to speak out in meeting;

# **“MUST DO” List**

1. Prepare yourself to take control of your career, because no one else will;
2. Undertake a personal career review regularly;
3. Find a mentor;
4. Be organized - start a journal to record activities, achievements and contacts;
5. Make a diary date 3 months ahead to update your career review.



# **Post-graduate scholarships**

# Governmental scholarships

1. DAAD - <https://www.daad.or.ke/en/>
2. NUFFIC scholarships - <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/holland-scholarship/>
3. Commonwealth scholarships - <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply/>
4. VLIR-OUS Belgium - <https://www.vliruos.be/en/scholarships/6>
5. Australia Award scholarships = <https://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships.aspx>
6. New Zealand scholarships - <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/aid-and-development/new-zealand-government-scholarships/>
7. Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships - <https://www.sbfi.admin.ch/sbfi/en/home/bildung/scholarships-and-grants/swiss-government-excellence-scholarships-for-foreign-scholars-an.html>
8. Scholars4development - <http://www.scholars4dev.com/category/level-of-study/masters-scholarships/>

# Bilateral/multilateral scholarships

1. World Bank Scholarships Program - <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/scholarships>
2. Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJ/WBGSP)
3. Mwalimu Nyerere African Union Scholarship Scheme - <https://au.int/en/scholarship>
4. Chinese Government African Union Scholarships for African Students - <http://www.campuschina.org/>
5. Pan-African (AU) University scholarships



# Questions??



# THANK YOU

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