**Impressing UK employers as an International Student**

**Video transcript**

At Career Zone we teach all students at Exeter how to stand out to employers, so there are lots of events, resources and other help that will be relevant to you, even if it is not designed specifically for international students. Any advice that helps UK students to impress employers is likely to be helpful for you too. However, there are some extra suggestions specifically for international students.

Often students believe that employers are most impressed by high grades and work experience from that career area. Actually, employers in the UK say that these are not the most important things they look for in students. Instead they value enthusiasm and passion for an industry and soft skills. We can see this clearly in this study, carried out by the Bright Network.

Because UK employers are impressed by skills and want you to provide examples or stories about times when you have used those skills, we would encourage you to develop your skills outside of your studies. We know that as an international student, your time is precious and that studying in a new country takes time to adjust to. However, if you can, it’s a good idea to get involved in at least one extra-curricular activity. The good news is that you can pick something that really interests you, or that you really enjoy, as you will still be gaining valuable skills. Employers don’t mind too much where your examples of skills come from as long as you describe them effectively. For example, employers will be convinced of your communication skills regardless of whether you were communicating during a sports match, or in your part time job at a café, or at a society meeting. At Career Zone we provide a range of opportunities for you to develop skills, such as through our employability schemes or skills workshops as well as the Exeter Award. We also offer internships for Exeter students and graduates.

UK employers can only be impressed by your skills if you can describe them effectively when you apply for jobs. You must write applications which describe the specific skills that each employer asks for. Remember that each employer looks for a unique set of skills for each job role, so each time you apply you will need to tailor or adjust your application to make sure it’s a strong match. UK employers are not impressed by receiving a generic application. Generic means the same every time. Generic applications are when you send the same CV or cover letter each time. In the UK you much change your application every single time to match the particular role you are applying to.