**What do UK employers want? Video Transcript**

Most employers in the UK welcome applications from students who have studied any degree subject. That means they might accept applications from accounting students as well as geography graduates. There are some exceptions to this, usually in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics jobs, but most other jobs are open to students from any discipline. This might mean there are many more jobs open to you in the UK than you realised, in areas that you don’t have any experience of or haven’t studied before. That doesn’t matter too much to employers as they recruit for two main things. The first is your passion and enthusiasm for the job, company, and industry. The second is how good a match your skills are for the skills required in the job they are advertising.

This may surprise you a little, especially if you come from a country where employer recruit based mostly on grades and academic ability. Although research shows that there *are* links between academic and career success, it’s not a straightforward relationship. For example, grades can’t measure leadership or comfort with risk, two traits that are important in many careers. Grades don’t show emotional intelligence or interpersonal skills like networking which are also critical skills. For these reasons, UK employers have moved towards a skills-based recruiting strategy.

The good news is that you can demonstrate your skills using examples from any aspect of your life, including hobbies, sports, part time work or volunteering. It’s important to have examples from outside your studies as all students will be able to discuss their academic skills. There is so much on offer at Exeter – try to pick one or two extra-curricular activities to get involved with if you can.

What employers tell us is that the most common reason for rejecting students is because they haven’t created a tailored application. Here’s a recent study from the Institute of Student Employers who were asked for their top reasons that students are unsuccessful in their applications. Tailoring means paying careful attention to the job description and adjusting your CV to show how you are a good fit, and providing examples of your skills in enough detail to convince an employer that you really have them. It also means researching the employer and explaining why you want to work for them. This means that you can’t send the same CV and cover letter to every employer- instead you need to adapt it each and every time, which is why we recommend creating a small number of tailored, thoughtful applications rather than many copy-and-pasted ones. Many UK students don’t do a very good job of this, so you can really stand out if you learn to do this well. We are here to provide you with help.

Another important thing that UK employers want is for you to have really good English skills. There are lots of opportunities for you to work on your English at Exeter but the most effective is for you to practice as much as possible! It can be tempting to spend time with other students from your country and speak your own language, but finding opportunities to chat to UK students, speak up in class or take advantage of the English support at Exeter will really improve your success in finding work in the UK.