

STEP 2: CONNECT

A companion workbook to help you build connections for career success during graduate school.

Sample Only.

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BEYOND
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Connect: Build Connections, Get Experience

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Welcome!

Step 2 of the Beyond Grad School five-step framework is building connections and gaining experience in your desired career field.

At the end of this module, you will be able to **cultivate relationships** with industry experts and build your network, apply proven job search strategies to **land an internship**, and **expand your skillset** through internships, practicums, and coursework.

Networking is one of the most critical areas of your job search. Networking is an opportunity for you to learn from other professionals in your field, connect with employers, and learn how to confidently speak about your skills.

Through networking, you will also learn about career opportunities where you can **gain experience**. In a survey, 92% of employers wanted to see evidence that a candidate had **applied their knowledge in an industry setting**.

To be successful in your job search after your master's degree, you will need **connections and experience**.

This module will teach you foundational skills to help you connect and gain experience in graduate school. You'll learn how to network, design compelling application documents for internships, navigate career fairs, and prepare for interviews. Explore the video lessons to learn how to:

- **Identify opportunities in graduate school to build skills, gain experience, and grow your network.**
- **Navigate career fairs with confidence.**
- **Find, apply, and interview for internships to help you build your career.**

Each lesson is accompanied by guiding questions and exercises to help you apply what you've learned.

We recommend that you download the form-fillable PDF workbook and type out (or write out!) your answers as you go.

Happy learning!

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Lesson 1

Building Connections for Career Success

Learning objectives

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

1. Recognize what networking is and why it is critical to job search success.
2. Describe how to set up and conduct an informational interview.
3. Write an elevator pitch that creates career opportunities.



Questions to Consider

After watching Lesson 1 at this link: <https://institutions.beyondgradschool.com/module-1/building-connections-for-career-success/>, answer the questions below and complete the exercises on the next pages.

What is networking and why is it important in a job search?

What is the purpose of an informational interview?

Exercises

Reflect on your Strategy

How are you currently pursuing career opportunities? What strategies are you using? Make note below.

Based on this lesson, what do you need to do differently to be successful? What strategies do you need to start using? Make note below.

SMART Goals for Networking and Making Connections

Now that you've learned some effective strategies for job searching, set some SMART goals to get you started. Remember SMART goals should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound. These could be as simple as finding people to connect with on LinkedIn, or scheduling and preparing for a certain number of informational interviews each week.

SMART Goal #1:

Goals:

Tasks:

SMART Goal #2:

Goals:

Tasks:

SMART Goal #3:

Goals:

Tasks:

SMART Goal #4:

Goals:

Tasks:

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