

Importance of networking & extra-curricular activities

By

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Networking – What is it?

- Exchange of information and ideas among people with a common profession or special interest
- Typically in an informal social setting
- It's all about finding common ground – something you both have an interest in... some examples below
 - Where you grew up
 - Books you have read, films you have seen, performance theatre (plays/dance)
 - Sports you have played / watched
 - University interests
 - Best holiday destinations – past and future



Networking – Pro's and Con's

Pro's	Con's
Improve opportunities for jobs	Time consuming – Long-term Game
Develop long-term friendships	Keeping Social Network Profiles up to date
Broaden your knowledgebase	Not everyone understands that it should be two-way
Drive personal development	Potential false sense of security
Expand your comfort zone	Difficult to change people's opinion of you in short-term



Networking in the workplace

"I'm so ready for the real world"
-said no one ever

While not pertinent at the moment, this critical in your future

- Know who the senior leaders are, starting at the very top
- Typically, most workplaces have org-charts: names, faces and bio's
- Who are the leaders in your city, country and region
- Firstly, start navigating which part of the organization you fit into
- Secondly, navigate who your key stakeholders will be
- Thirdly, navigate who your key support partners will be



Networking whilst at school

- Examples where you can network
 - **Social Networks:**
 - Facebook; Twitter; Snapchat; Instagram
 - **Professional Networks:**
 - LinkedIn
 - **Work placements:**
 - Internships; Part-time work
 - **Extra-Curricular Activities:**
 - Music, drama & theatre; Foreign languages; volunteering & fundraising



Is a foreign language worth the investment?

Time to start the networking conversations!

- If you are in a traditional social setting or “around the water-cooler” or canteen, refer to earlier slides – keep the conversation simple
- If you are in a more formal work setting and would like to connect with a workmate, preferably meet face-2-face or on-camera
 - Set an agenda beforehand to allow your workmate to prepare, where required
 - Remember: WIFT – What’s in it for Them | WIFM – What’s in it for Me
- Communication is always best face-2-face, then by phone, email and finally by instant-message



Extra-Curricular Activities – What is it?

- These are activities that are available that are typically outside the normal curriculum
- They become very important for your future, as they develop your talents, interests, and passions
- Think of activities that will enable you to:
 - expand your comfort-zone
 - provide you with more tools in your toolbox



