

## RESOURCES FOR STUDENT MUSICIANS - EDUCATOR GUIDE

### Careers panel: How did you get here?

An excellent and fun way to learn about the interesting careers of musicians is to host a careers panel. Invite three to five faculty members or practising musicians to be on a panel.

These sessions generally take between 60 and 90 minutes and they work best if the room is small enough not to need microphones. The sample questions on the following page provide some examples, but challenge students to supplement these with at least three of their own. Ask students to think about what they really want to know!

#### Student resource

The student resource for this guide can be found on the [Developing EmployABILITY student website](#) and in the [music toolkit on our educator website](#).

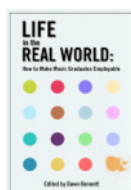


Photo by Marcos Luiz Photograph on Unsplash



## SAMPLE QUESTIONS

- What do you wish you had learned when you were an undergraduate?
- Where do you want to be in five years' time?
- What do you want to be doing in five years' time?
- What was your first paid job in music?
- What was your worst ever experience in music?
- If you won the lottery this week, what would you change about your work?
- Who are your heroes?
- What did you do in the year after you graduated?
- What skills do you think all musicians need?
- What attributes do you think all musicians need?
- What would you change about music degrees?
- What graduate study do you recommend, and why?
- How many different jobs have you held at any one time?
- What do you most love to do in music? Why?
- What are the negatives of being employed full-time (in an orchestra, or in a university)?
- What kinds of music do you listen to?
- What are the pitfalls of working as a freelance musician?
- What are the good things about freelance life?
- If you could go back in time to when you were 20, what would you do?
- What do you think a musician is?
- What do you do to relax?
- What do you recommend we do whilst we are studying, to get ahead?
- What is your dream job?
- What in music do you hate doing, and how do you avoid it?
- How do you practice?
- Do you have any regrets about your career so far?
- How do we get people to come to our concert rather than someone else's?
- If you had the keys to Dr Who's TARDIS, where would you go and why?
- Who is the most useful person you ever met in music, and why?



This tool comes from Life in the Real World: How to Make Music Graduates Employable, published by Common Ground in 2012. You can order it [here](#).

This resource was contributed by Dawn Bennett (Curtin University).

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Developing Employability is led by Professor Dawn Bennett, Curtin University, Australia.  
The work is supported by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

Last edited: September 30, 2018 | REV A