

Careers panel: How did you get here?

An excellent way to learn about interesting careers of professionals is to attend or host a careers panel. If you plan to host a panel, invite three to five people and ask them to be prepared to tell their story: to answer the question, “How did you get here?”

Careers panels 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 attendees to supplement these with at least three of their own. You can use the ticket at the end to ensure they do this. Ask everyone to think about what they really want to know!



Figure 1 Photo by Rosie Halsmith

Sample questions

1. What do you wish you had learned when you were an undergraduate?
2. Where do you want to be in five years' time?
3. What do you want to be doing in five years' time?
4. What was your first paid job?
5. Since you started in your career, what was your worst ever experience?
6. If you won the lottery this week, what would you change about your work?
7. What did you do in the year after you graduated?
8. What skills do you think all people in your profession need?
9. What attributes do you think all people in your profession need?
10. What graduate study do you recommend, and why?
11. What do you most love about what you do? Why?
12. What are the negatives of being employed full-time?
13. If you could go back in time to when you were 20, what would you do?
14. What do you do to relax?
15. What do you recommend we do whilst we are studying, to get ahead?
16. What is your dream job?
17. What in your profession do you hate doing, and how do you avoid it?
18. Do you have any regrets about your career so far?
19. If you had the keys to Dr Who's TARDIS, where would you go and why?
20. Who are your heroes? And, who is the most useful person you've met in your career, and why?

Careers Panel Ticket: What do you really want to know?

To gain entry, write your three panel questions here or add them to your phone:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



This resource was developed by Dawn Bennett (Bond University).