Introduction to Career Services.

University of Guelph Graduate Student Orientation, Fall 2020

Transcript:

[Slide 1]

Hi and welcome to the Online Graduate Student Orientation for Fall 2020.

[Slide 2]

This is me in the top left box. My name is Jill Ferguson and I am the Manager of Career Development in the Experiential Learning Hub and these are the fantastic team members that will be here to support and guide you through your career development questions right from your 1st day as a graduate student to graduation and beyond as an alum of Guelph.

Our services are open to ALL students. We can help you with questions you may have related to your career development including goal setting, personality assessments, cover letter and resume development, how to gain skills within and outside your graduate program or, opportunities you’d like to explore. We don’t have a cookie cutter approach to career advising. We listen to you, your needs and help you explore what you feel is right for you.

What we do have however, is a College-focused approach. Each of the advisors have a College-specific portfolio and have knowledge and foster connections within each College to maximize their ability to understand how your academics will influence your career path and vice versa.

[Slide 3]

What you’ll find is that we offer very similar things than what you’ll find other Career offices offer across the country. These services can help you determine your overarching career plan, help you design and showcase your knowledge and skills in an employer targeted resume or cover letter, practice interviews and provide opportunities to meet with employers.

[Slide 4]

However, many graduate students come to us feeling as though everyone has a career plan and that it should be as easy as beginning their masters or PhD and finishing with a career. I'll tell you a secret. Very few students, even those with a pretty good idea of what they want to do, have a straight-forward, bump free experience. Some students find both dips and hurdles as well as triumphs and successes. What the University of Guelph career advising team does is to help you understand, be prepared for and learn how to manage the challenges and opportunities that are ahead of you, but we do it in a way that you might not have thought of before.
I bet that ever since you were little you've been asked multiple times “So, what do you want to be when you grow up?”. Well, I’m sure the moment you decided to do graduate work the question changed to “So, what do you want to do with your Masters or PhD?”

If I were to ask you right now how many job titles you could think of, you might come up with what? 30? 40? Maybe 50? There are thousands of job titles out there right now and many that haven't even been developed yet. So the traditional way of looking at it is where you take a stream in your undergraduate degree that you like and are good at, which leads to applying to a graduate degree program you know about, which then leads to a job at companies you've heard of, where you may (or may not) truly know the challenges they are working on. This feels (and is) a very limiting concept. Let’s just flip it around.

What if we look at the challenges in the world and what piques your interest. Is it the environment? What are you interested in about the environment? Is there a specific topic within it? You may want to start there to help determine your options. You don’t have to know everything about it right now, but what if you are really interested in understanding city sprawl and its effect on the environment. Who are the range of companies, organizations or industries that are working on this challenge? What kind of jobs are people working in those organizations or sectors and what is their educational background at a university or college? Thinking about it in those terms opens up so many more options and takes the pressure off that you have only one option or path depending on the graduate program you choose. Finding what challenge you would like to work on allows you to look at it from a variety of perspectives and a variety of degree programs. The question changes from “what are you going to do with your Masters or PhD” to “what do you want to do with your Masters or PhD?” A subtle, but very important distinction.

So, even though I’m working from here right now, and our other advisors are working from their home offices (or kitchen tables from my perspective), we are still here to help graduate students through these career development questions, provide support and make sure that we continue to guide our Gryphons to success, whatever that success looks like for you.

However, this is usually where we are. Right beside Rozanski Hall in the middle of campus. We really look forward to working with you and please know that we are offering online appointments, workshops, messaging through Instagram and more to help support you in your career development. If you’d like to meet with one of us or see what events we have
going on throughout the semester, then please log in to experienceguelph.ca with your central login. Thanks so much. Take care and good luck!

[End of Transcript]