

Bridging the Gap: Maximising Employability Skills to Enhance Academic Achievement and Secure Career Success

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WELCOME!

Schedule



11:30 a.m. – Employability Skills Presentation

11:45 a.m. – Communication Activity

11:50 a.m. – Soft Skills Activity

12:05 p.m. – Problem-Solving Activity

12:25 p.m. – Conclusion

Employability

“a set of achievements – skills, understandings and personal attributes – that makes graduates more likely to gain employment and be successful in their chosen occupations, which benefits themselves, the workforce, the community and the economy”.

Value of Employability

“...45% of university students considered themselves unprepared to secure employment...”

Prospects, Student Survey, June 2021

“...22% of employers were confident that UK graduates possess essential employability skills on joining the workforce...”

Chartered Management Institute, September 2021

Value of Employability

Professional services

Pandemic-era graduates struggle with teamwork, say Deloitte and PwC

Big Four firms increase training to tackle 'skills gaps' among recruits whose education was disrupted by lockdowns



Like most professional services firms, Deloitte and PwC allow their employees to split the working week between their homes and the office © Hollie Adams/Bloomberg

Michael O'Dwyer, Accountancy Correspondent YESTERDAY

Deloitte and PwC are giving extra coaching to their youngest UK staff after noticing recruits whose education was disrupted by lockdowns have weaker teamwork and

Financial Times, 1 May 2023

Student feedback on our sessions



"With Sinead's assistance I got more confident in speaking about my experience and skills. This was helpful as I thought not having a strong corporate work experience was going to be a major setback with my applications."



*- Oluwaseun Mulikat Omotunde Young,
MSc Formulation Science*






"I am writing to let you know that I have heard back from Adler University, I got accepted and I was offered a scholarship as well! Thanks again for your help, I couldn't have done it without your support and guidance."

- Diana Callejas Vazquez, BSc Psychology

Top 10 skills of 2023

1.  Analytical thinking	6.  Technological literacy
2.  Creative thinking	7.  Dependability and attention to detail
3.  Resilience, flexibility and agility	8.  Empathy and active listening
4.  Motivation and self-awareness	9.  Leadership and social influence
5.  Curiosity and lifelong learning	10.  Quality control

Type of skill

 Cognitive skills  Self-efficacy  Management skills  Technology skills  Working with others

Source
World Economic Forum, Future of Jobs Report 2023.

Note
The skills judged to be of greatest importance to workers at the time of the survey

Top 10 skills of 2025

Type of skill

- Problem-solving
- Self-management
- Working with people
- Technology use and development



Analytical thinking and innovation



Active learning and learning strategies



Complex problem-solving



Critical thinking and analysis



Creativity, originality and initiative



Leadership and social influence



Technology use, monitoring and control



Technology design and programming



Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility



Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation

Source: Future of Jobs Report 2020, World Economic Forum.

Employability Package



Professional Approach

- Be productive
- Develop a professional image
- Take the initiative
- Maintain effective work habits
- Prioritize, plan and manage your assignments and projects.
Follow up and follow through with your supervisor and team members



Professional Approach

- Manage your time efficiently
- Be accountable for your work and actions
- Provide excellence
- Produce work and results that reflect a sense of pride and professionalism, often exceeding expectations
- Be a problem-solver



Professional Approach

- Be resilient
- Communicate effectively
- Develop self-awareness
- Build relationships



Professional Behaviour

- Know your organisation's mission, values and code of professional conduct
- Be respectful
- Manage your emotions and language, especially during stressful times
- Act honestly, openly and with authenticity
- Be supportive of your team and colleagues



Professional Behaviour

-Stay focused on work tasks when you're at work and manage your personal matters so they don't impact your work

-Ask for feedback

-Stay committed, dedicated, positive and consistent





Communication

“The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.”

Bernard Shaw

George



Communication

“80% of workplace issues are communication

LinkedIn



Active Listening



Skills for Problem Solving

What Skills Make a

GOOD PROBLEM SOLVER?

- Collaborative communication
- Active listening
- Coachability
- Decision making
- Critical thinking
- Research and data analysis
- Persistence



Creative Thinking

Top Creative Thinking Skills

ANALYTICAL

Ability to analyze things first



OPEN-MINDED

Thinking of things no one else has considered before

PROBLEM SOLVING

Ability to solve an important issue



ORGANIZATION

Being able to structure a plan of action with clear goals and deadlines



COMMUNICATION

Strong written and oral skills, ability to listen and ask the right questions

Questions



Micro-activities



Hot Seat

How well do you communicate?

-1 minute per pair

-Don't say the word!!!

-If you don't know, shout "Pass"!

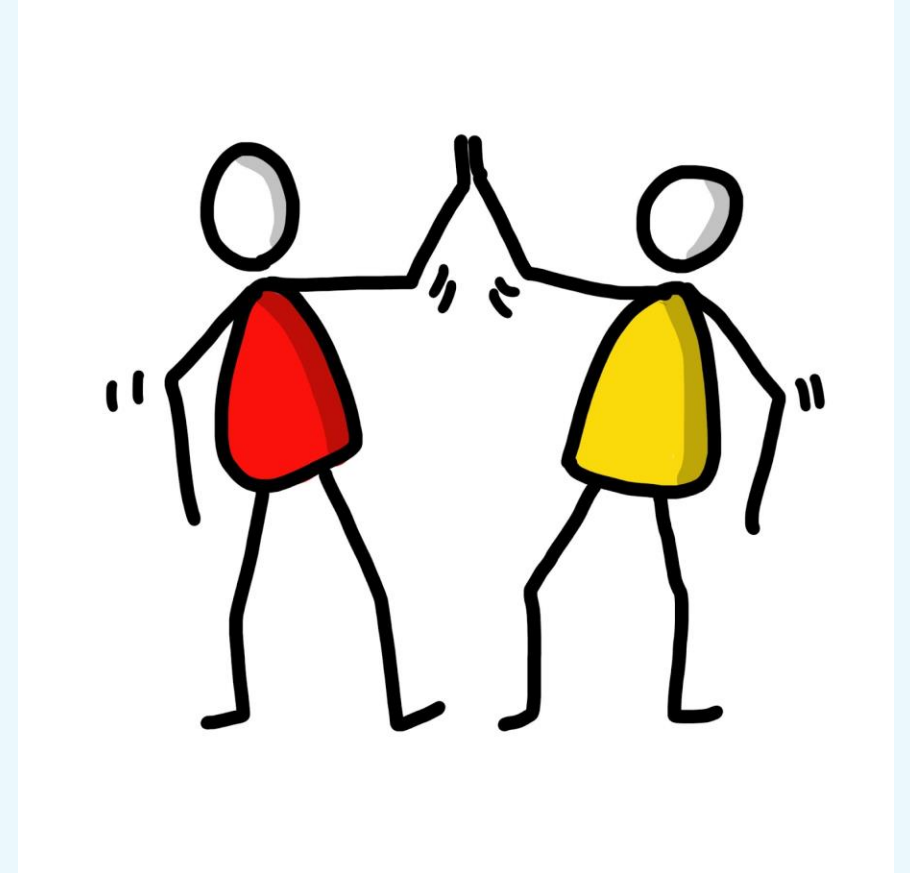


Soft Skills Task

Turn to the person next to you. Pretend you have never met them before and are approaching them for the first time.

Take it in turns to be the employer. Give each other a score out of 10 for the following:

- Small talk topics (are they appropriate/do they break the ice?)
- Length of small talk – do they jump to business too quickly? Do they segue smoothly into business talk?
- Body language – hand gestures/openness/eye contact



Team Task

The earth is about to be destroyed. One rescue rocket, with 5 vacant places is about to launch. Candidates to board the spaceship are a 70-year-old retired teacher, an accountant and his pregnant wife, a young singer, a government minister, a police officer with a taser and a basketball player.

Take 5 minutes to decide who you, as an individual, would choose to board the rocket.

Take 15 minutes as a group to discuss the candidates and reach a unanimous decision on who goes and who stays.

Without compromising your own values, can you as a team reach a collaborative conclusion? Good luck 😊

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Thankyou.