

Critical thinking & your employability

STUDY SKILLS GUIDES

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Through your academic studies you will develop critical thinking skills. These skills will also be invaluable in helping you to make decisions about your career choice after university, find suitable job opportunities and establish your graduate career.

Choosing a career involves:

Reflecting on yourself – your motivation, skills and experience; researching and identifying potential careers; evaluating information and weighing up different options in order to draw conclusions about the best route for you.

Finding suitable job opportunities involves:

- Identifying vacancies
- Analysing the requirements
- Critically comparing your skills and experience against the role requirements
- Gathering evidence of your suitability in order to present a clear, reasoned argument in your application

Your critical thinking skills will also help you succeed in your graduate career. However, employers may use a variety of terms to express their requirements of critical thinking skills in job descriptions. Here are two examples:

Ambitious Futures (a graduate scheme training graduates in higher education administration and management):

'Strategic thinking – do you think about wider issues, use resources effectively and adhere to policies and guidelines?'

'Analysis and decision making – can you collate and analyse information effectively in order to make informed decisions?'

Which? Business Researcher:

'Your experience of collecting, collating and analysing information will allow you to make sense of what's on the market.'

Use the other resources in the Preparing to study section to develop your critical thinking skills and enhance your employability.