Welcome to your alumni community.
Graduation is a time for celebrating your success and looking to the future. You are now part of a global family of over 180,000 Sheffield alumni from more than 180 countries. From teachers and engineers to Nobel Prize winners and Olympic champions, Sheffield's graduates are helping to shape the world we live in.

The Development, Alumni Relations and Events (DARE) team work with our alumni in so many ways. We’ve produced the Graduate Guide to support you as you embark on this next phase in your life. As well as advice about job hunting, setting up a business and your options for further study, you’ll also find out about the many ways in which you can stay connected to your University.

Watch our video
sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/we-are-dare

Claire Rundström
Head of Alumni Relations
Your Future
Life after graduation

1. Don’t worry if you don’t have a clear plan yet
It can take a while to figure out what you want to do and the direction you want your career to go in.

2. Take steps to improve your career prospects
This may be through volunteering, doing an internship, taking online courses or asking for extra responsibilities in your part-time job. All these things can help you decide what you want to do and make you stand out from the crowd when applying for roles.
3. Build up your contact list
Alumni events can be a great way to expand your professional network with fellow Sheffield graduates.

4. Try unconventional means of applying for jobs too
Often small and medium-sized businesses can be receptive to speculative applications.

5. Be persistent
The job market is very competitive, so don’t lose heart if at first you don’t succeed. Always ask for feedback and be sure to act on it next time.
Your Careers Service

So you've graduated and it's time to think about your next steps. Not sure where to start? The Careers Service can help. They're here to provide you with information, support and guidance to help you fulfil your potential and get to where you want to be.

There's lots of information available on the Careers Service website. Search for vacancies, sign up for job alerts, access free courses, take practice psychometric tests and lots more.
What next?

If you’re not sure what career you’d like to go into, don’t worry. You’ve probably already made steps towards this, even if you don’t know it yet. As a recent graduate, you’ll have lots of ideas, knowledge and experience which employers are looking for.

The Careers Service online resources can help match you to possible careers by encouraging you to think about your skills, interests and motivations.

→ Further study can be a great way of enhancing your career prospects. Find out more on p. 12.

→ Thinking of taking some time out? Using this time to go travelling or doing voluntary work can be a great experience, but it’s important to plan what you’re going to do afterwards too.

→ Budding entrepreneur? You can access the services offered by University of Sheffield Enterprise (USE) to help your dream become a reality – see p. 11 for more information.
Job hunting

Job hunting can sometimes feel a little overwhelming, but Career Connect is a great place to start looking. Its powerful search function is only available to Sheffield graduates and it enables you to search for placements, graduate jobs and part-time work; find out about events, such as careers fairs run by the University; and book appointments with a Careers Adviser if you need additional support.

If you were an international student, or you’re looking for work in other countries, check out the International careers resources.

Graduate Outcomes

You’ll be asked to take part in the national Graduate Outcomes survey to find out what you’re up to approximately 15 months after graduating. Please complete it and help us make sure that Sheffield gets responses from all its recent graduates.
Applications and interviews

The Careers Service offers a range of services online to help you write strong job or course applications, as well as guidance on how to use social media to enhance your job prospects.

Applications top tips

1. Follow all instructions carefully

It’s the first sign to an employer that you can pay attention to detail – a key skill they’ll be looking out for.

2. Never type your answers directly into the application form

Draft and save everything in Word first so you can check spelling and grammar.

3. Tailor your answers

You may have aced that module in Contrastive Germanic Linguistics, but is it relevant to the job spec? If not, leave it out.

4. Use the STAR technique – this can be useful in interviews too

Situation – briefly give context to your answer.

Task – what was the objective?

Action – what did you do and how?

Result – what was the outcome?

5. Proofread. Then proofread again

Even better if you can get someone else to check over it too. Basic errors can cost you an interview.
**Your HEAR**

If you were an undergraduate, the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) is your official record of your University achievements. It contains academic information, including your module titles and grades, and extra-curricular activities that the University can verify. As a University-issued document, it can back up the information you write in your CV or application forms.

**Equality issues**

It is important that through an application and interview process you are able to do your best and not feel discriminated against. You should never be asked about your age, gender, sexual orientation, disability (unless you wish to disclose this yourself) or marital status.

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**Interview top tips**

1. **Preparation is key**
   Research the job and employer, and be clear about how your skills and experiences link to the role.

2. **Keep copies...**
   Of the job advert and your application. Often these form the basis of the interview.

3. **Arrive on time**
   Not too early and NEVER late. 10 minutes before the time they’ve given you is about right.

4. **Be specific**
   Declaring “I work well in teams” isn’t good enough. Give specific examples which demonstrate the skills they’re looking for.

5. **Focus on your strengths...**
   And show that you’re aware of your weaknesses and are working to overcome them.
University of Sheffield Enterprise

Bringing your entrepreneurial ideas to life

University of Sheffield Enterprise (USE) provides advice and support for Sheffield graduates who want to start their own business. They can help you with:

- Funding
- Business coaching
- Coworking opportunities and use of office space
- Workshops and events

Grants of up to £1,500 are available through USE’s Evolve programme for start-ups in their early stages.

“…My legal background has been very helpful, but my involvement with USE and the skills I’ve developed, the ability to test ideas and network with other entrepreneurs, have been fundamental to getting my idea off the ground.

Natalia Welch (MA International Criminology 2012), below, set up her business Pura Panela – a Columbian ‘healthier and balanced alternative to processed sugar’ – with the support of USE.
Postgraduate study at Sheffield

Whether you want to carry on studying a subject you love, learn new skills or try something new, why not find out where a Sheffield postgraduate course could take you?

Visit our Stay On. Go Far. webpage to find out more about how our exciting new Talk to US service provides you with a unique opportunity to access:

- One-to-one guidance and support
- Advice on finance and funding options
- Fast track application service

As a Sheffield graduate you can also benefit from a 10% discount on tuition fees.

I’m originally from Birmingham, but I’ve created a life for myself in Sheffield and really wanted to stay here. There’s a vibrant postgrad community at Sheffield, and many of my peers who haven’t previously lived in Sheffield have also found so many ways to meet new people.

Postgraduates at Sheffield have so many opportunities to engage with their fields of interest outside of the actual course which really helps in building up extracurricular experience which will be really valuable in the future.

Sarah Pugh
(LLB International Law 2016, LLM International Law and Global Justice 2017)
Your Sheffield
Students’ Union Life Membership Gold

Revisit your student days again and again by becoming a Life Member of Sheffield Students’ Union. Membership means you’ll still be able to go to Students’ Union club nights and bars, and you’ll also have access to the opportunities offered by Sheffield Volunteering. It costs just £10 and all proceeds are invested into the Students’ Union. To get your card, visit the Sheffield Students’ Union Store in the main entrance or download an application form online and your card will be posted out to you.
University clothing, gifts and souvenirs

Remember your University experience forever with our extensive range of quality and ethically sourced products. Explore our range of crested and essential hoodies, sweatshirts and t-shirts.

There is customised department, faculty, society and team clothing available. If it's a gift or souvenir you're after, there's stationery, ties, bags, mugs and lots more.

sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/merchandise
sheffieldstore.com
sheffield.ac.uk/cics/university-gifts
Reunions and events

Once you’ve graduated, we’re sure you’ll miss your alma mater. The Alumni Relations team is here to help you reunite with friends and remember the times you spent here as a student.

They organise a number of reunions and events throughout the year which alumni and friends are invited to attend.

These events happen on campus, around the UK and internationally, and range from informal receptions to pub quizzes, formal dinners, class reunions and more.

Keep an eye on your email inbox for:
- Pop Tarts Reunited in September
- London Pub Quiz in February
- Alumni Sports Day and Pop Tarts Reunited in April

We can also help you to plan and arrange your own reunions or events.

Let us know when you get together with fellow grads by tweeting @SheffieldAlumni
Alumni Sports Day
Get a team of friends together, come back to Sheffield, throw your kit back on and compete in this annual six-a-side tournament against fellow alumni at Goodwin Sports Centre.

In the evening you can take part in the Alumni Pub Quiz before heading to Pop Tarts Reunited in the Students’ Union. Interested? We’ll email you details of how to sign up nearer the time.

Sheffield Alumni Quiz – London
Our annual quiz in London keeps getting bigger and better. This year graduates from as far back as 1969 right up to the present day battled it out in 18 teams. If you’re heading to London after graduation, we’d love to see you at the next quiz night in February.
Volunteering

Volunteering is a fantastic way to stay connected with your department and the University whilst making a huge difference to students. It also allows you to continue to develop your skills and build your own professional network. Here are just some of the ways you can get involved:

- Mentor a student
- Give a talk about your career
- Provide a career profile
- Feedback on student projects

You can choose to volunteer as a new graduate, or wait until you’ve been out in the workplace for a couple of years - it’s up to you. Visit our webpages to register your interest and find out more.

Our annual Pioneering Alumni Award recognises an alumni volunteer who has graduated in the last five years. It is presented at our annual Alumni Thank You event.

sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/volunteering
We asked our Alumni Volunteers why they choose to give their time and knowledge to support the studies and career prospects of our students.

In the last year more than 1,500 former students from 70 countries have given nearly 12,000 hours of their time to help current students through our Alumni Volunteering programme.

Jason Cook @JCook1501:
@SheffieldAlumni Sheffield Uni gave me so much during my 5 years so I naturally want to give something back! #SheffAlumniVols

nommer @nommer:
@SheffieldAlumni It doesn’t take much time, and it’s personally rewarding. You’ll meet other alumni too so good for networking!

Charlotte Hudson @HudsonLottie:
@SheffieldAlumni Got involved because not everyone leaves Uni with a clear career path ahead. I want to show that’s nothing to be scared of.

PML @Munrolott:
@SheffieldAlumni The best thing (apart from revisiting Sheffield) is seeing the enthusiasm of and opportunities for students.
Alumni giving back

Enhancing the student experience
As a Sheffield student, you’ll have benefited from the generosity of our alumni community. You might have received an alumni scholarship, or taken part in a club or society project funded by the Alumni Foundation. And we’re sure you’ll have made good use of our University facilities, libraries and academic equipment – all supported by our donors.

Enabling world-changing research
Alumni also give to support the University’s world-changing research. Our recent Sheffield Scanner campaign has seen thousands of graduates and friends donating to help bring a ground-breaking new MRI-PET scanner to Sheffield. It’s the most advanced imaging technology available and could transform our understanding of serious conditions like cancer, dementia and stroke.

How you can help
Now you’ve graduated, we’ll keep in touch with you about how alumni donations are making a difference here at Sheffield, and we hope that you’ll consider giving back to your university too. To find out more, visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/donate or watch out for a call from one of our student callers – they’d love to catch up with you.
Or, why not raise money for one of the University’s fundraising projects? Recently alumni have raised thousands of pounds from running challenges, parachute jumps, sports events, and bake sales for causes which are important to them. Contact our Community Fundraising team at communityfundraising@sheffield.ac.uk to find out how we can support you with your fundraising.

I loved my time at Sheffield. Working as a student fundraiser, I got to see how much is done with the donations and I thought: For the price of a pint in the Union, why not contribute too? To start now with a small amount, it stacks up over the years without me ever noticing it!

**Lewis Yates**  
*(BEng Civil Engineering 2014)*
Outstanding Sheffield alumni

Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill (BSc Psychology 2007, Hon LittD 2010) is one of Britain’s greatest athletes. She won heptathlon gold at the London 2012 Olympics and silver at Rio 2016. She is also the current British record holder.

Eddie Izzard (Hon LittD 2006) is a comedian, actor and writer. He first performed comedy whilst studying at Sheffield for a year in 1981, before leaving to pursue it full-time. In 2016 he raised over £1 million for Sport Relief by running 27 marathons in 27 days. Eddie was awarded an honorary degree from the University in 2006.

Lucy Prebble (BA English Literature 2002) is a playwright who wrote The Sugar Syndrome, The Effect and ENRON. She has also written for the Guardian and is the author of the television series Secret Diary of a Call Girl, which starred Billie Piper. Lucy was honoured with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014.

Dan Walker (BA History 1998, MA Journalism Studies 1999) is the host of BBC Breakfast and Football Focus. Dan still lives in Sheffield, has given talks at his old department and is a patron of our Elite Sports Performance Scheme.

Dr Helen Sharman, CMG, OBE (BSc Chemistry 1984, Hon DSc 2017) is a chemist who, in 1991, blasted off for a seven day mission to the Mir space station, becoming the first Briton in space. She was appointed as the President of the Institute of Science & Technology in 2015 and received an honorary degree from the University in 2017.

Ade Solanke (BA English Literature 1984) is an acclaimed British-Nigerian screenwriter and playwright, best known for her debut stage play Pandora’s Box. She has held the position of writer-in-residence at the British Film Institute and is a Fellow of the Royal Literary Fund. In 2016, Ade was recognised by the University with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

The Rt Hon the Lord David Blunkett (BA Politics 1972, Hon LittD 2016) is a former MP who served as Education and Employment Secretary, Home Secretary, and Work and Pensions Secretary. In 2015, he joined the House of Lords and was appointed Professor of Politics in Practice at the University.
Alumni benefits

As well as careers and entrepreneurial support, postgraduate discounts, reunions and events, there are lots of other benefits available to you.

Sport facilities – S10health offers a discounted membership rate for all Sheffield alumni, giving you access to the gym, swimming pool, steam and sauna rooms, and fitness classes all based at the Goodwin Sports Centre.

Libraries – As a graduate, you can apply for free membership of the library. This will enable you to access all University libraries during staffed service hours, plus the Western Bank and Health Sciences libraries during self-service hours. You’ll also be able to borrow and request books from all our libraries and register to access a range of online journal articles using the Library Walk In Access Service.
Hotels and cottage hire – Enjoy up to a 10% discount with cottages.com and receive a discount at a number of hotels in Sheffield, including Halifax Hall Hotel in the Endcliffe student village.

Inox Dine – Situated on Level 5 of the Students’ Union Building, Inox Dine is one of the city’s finest restaurants. As a Sheffield alumnus, you’ll receive a 10% discount off their locally sourced, seasonal lounge menu.

Wedding venues – Choose from four stunning wedding venues at the University of Sheffield, including Firth Court, and receive an alumni discount with momentoUS.

You may need to show your Alumni Membership Card to take advantage of some of these benefits. We’ll post it out to you in September with our annual magazine, Your University.
University of Sheffield by numbers

1p
In 1904, over £50,000 was raised by penny donations from local steel factory workers and residents to help found the University – that’s over £15 million in today’s money.

1905
The University was founded, with just 114 students. King Edward VII opened Firth Court the same year.

1908
The first graduation took place, with 81 students attending the ceremony in Firth Court.

28,849
Students are currently studying here.

6 years
2018 marked the sixth consecutive year in which the University of Sheffield beat Sheffield Hallam at Varsity.

1.3 million
Books and periodicals in the University libraries.

#1
We’re the number one Russell Group University for student experience and our Students’ Union has been voted the best in the UK for the tenth consecutive year in the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey.

6 Nobel Laureates
In 2016, former lecturer, Professor Sir J Fraser Stoddart was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, making him the University’s sixth Nobel Prize winner.

2 tonnes
The world’s first air-cleansing poem, In Praise of Air, located on the side of the Alfred Denny Building, removed two tonnes of nitrogen oxide from the environment in just three years.

100
We are a world top 100 university, ranking 13th in the UK and 82nd internationally in the 2018 QS World University Rankings.

£45 million
More than 31,000 individual gifts have been donated to the University since 2002, totalling more than £45 million in gifts and confirmed pledges.

10,000
Congratulations – you’re one of 10,000 outstanding students graduating from the University this year.
Keeping in touch

To help you stay informed about what’s happening at Sheffield, we’ll be in touch with you in a number of ways. You’ll receive the annual alumni magazine, *Your University*, each July, along with quarterly Sheffield Alumni Bulletin e-newsletters. We’ll also email you with details of events and reunions, as well as opportunities to come back to campus to help the next generation of students here.

Watch

Watch our graduate video to learn more about what it means to be Sheffield Alumni. Visit sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/graduates

Keep in touch

sheffield.ac.uk/alumni
alumni@sheffield.ac.uk
0114 222 1071
@SheffieldAlumni
University of Sheffield Alumni
University of Sheffield Alumni

Update your details

Keep your details up-to-date so we can let you know about the latest events, news and opportunities that are most relevant to your location, interests and expertise.

To update your details visit sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/update
A graduate or former student of a school, college or university. From the Latin: nursling, pupil, foster son, from alere to nourish.