



Job Hackathon winners announced after applying for ‘dream job’

A trio of students who were put through their paces by industry professionals after applying for their ‘dream job’ have been named as the winners of Staffordshire University’s Job Hackathon.

The event was part of the University’s [CareersFest](#) which saw a week-long programme of free activities to help students get work-ready and featured talks and workshops from a range of employers and successful alumni.

The Job Hackathon gave students real life experience of applying for their dream job online before taking part in a mock interview. A range of employers, including representatives from Lloyds Banking Group, Michelin and RSM, took on the task of conducting the interviews alongside University academics and provided instant feedback and advice to the students.

Zoe Westwood and Emma Gaunt, both studying BA (Hons) Events Management, and MSc Electronic Engineering student Sunny Sharma performed best in the challenge and Vice-Chancellor Professor Allan Howells presented the winners with Intu Potteries vouchers worth £250 at the University’s relaunched Careers Network.

Professor Howells said: “Getting our students ready and supporting them in getting jobs when they finish their degrees is something that we’re passionate about at the University.”

“CareersFest was really successful, we had more than 1,000 people participate and the event will be returning again next year.”

Hackathon winner Zoe attended several of the CareersFest events: “A lot of people who are studying don’t have experience of the working world and CareersFest opens up opportunities to loads of different things. After hearing people speak about what they do it gives you more of an idea about what you want to do eventually.”

Fellow winner Sunny will graduate next year and believes that practicing his interview technique in the Hackathon will give him an advantage when he begins applying for jobs.

“The advice I had was really good and important to me - I still have the paper and go back and refer to the feedback. Overall it was a really good effort from the University and really good learning experience for anyone who took part in the hackathon.”

The University’s [Careers Network](#) continues to provide ongoing support to students and offers full careers coaching, help with CVs and interviewing as well as helping students and graduates find full and part-time work, placements, internships and volunteering opportunities.

“CareersFest was fantastic and really kickstarted students’ awareness of the Careers Network.” explained Mark Kent, Head of Graduate Employment.

“People can underestimate the amount of support that students need. You aren’t born with the knowledge of how to write a CV, how to behave in an interview or how to job search. So we’re here with our resources and individual support for all of our students.”

View a video of the winners presentation on Staffordshire University’s [Youtube channel](#).

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