

STUDENT BOOST SURVEY

In the Career Services Offices at the University of Adelaide, we've noticed that many students aren't aware of how important extra-curricular activities and even part-time work can be when applying for a job. Many students neglect to mention these activities in their resumes and don't understand the transferable skills they acquire.

To gauge student opinion on the topic and see how we as a service could help to fill these gaps, we decided to survey a range of students at our launch of National Career Development Week.

A free *Cadbury Boost*® Bar was offered to anyone who would complete the question; "What things can you be doing while at university to boost your career?"

Not surprisingly, the *Boost*® Bars vanished within the hour and we were left with a surprising top five list of responses from our field of one hundred participants.

1) Volunteering topped the list with a large majority of students writing that they felt this is the best way to broaden career opportunities and make industry contacts. However, several students also mentioned that they weren't sure how or where to volunteer their time.

2) Career Based Lectures slotted into second place, with students feeling career lectures are the best way to get information on writing resumes, interview skills and learning about potential employers. Many of the students mentioned specific talks from our lecture series being held throughout Career Development Week on the University's North Terrace Campus.

3) Work Experience was also high on the list with students making the link between hands on experience in their chosen field and career opportunities after graduation.

4) Part-time work within their field of study was also in the top five. However, very few students acknowledged unrelated casual and part-time work and skills such as team work and dealing with conflict that can be drawn upon in the interview process.

5) Networking was much lower of the list than expected, with only a small percentage of students realising the importance of 'who you know'.

With the information gathered from this representative sample of the student body we are now working to fill the gaps in student knowledge and organise future events and lectures based on this information. For instance, it's clear students understand the importance of volunteering but many are unsure how to actually become involved in a volunteer position.

The responses also show a clear gap in the importance of being involved in clubs and organisations which is another piece of information that can be used to help students fulfil their full potential and start their journey down their chosen career path.