

Top 10 Tips for Tapping Into University Talent

There are over 40,000 students in the Sussex area, meaning local businesses have access to some of the most intelligent and motivated minds in the county. Here are our top 10 tips for working with them.

1. Work experience is a great place to start

A good degree makes up only half of the ingredients needed in the recipe to make an employable graduate. Students are always looking for work experience, and what could be better than working for a local business? If you need part-time help, many students would jump at the chance to support companies and boost their experience. Contact with the careers team for help (see below).

2. Work closely with the Careers Team

The University of Sussex careers team are on-hand to make everyone's lives easier – that's for employers and students. As well as providing support for students, they act like match-makers for jobs, working with the uni population to make sure they get good quality work and internships. For entrepreneurs, they can give you more information about the ways the university can impact your business. Check out their website by clicking [here](#).

3. Get a fully funded intern

The University of Sussex offers a fully-funded internship scheme where businesses have access to students for 10 to 12 weeks of full-time work. Any business can apply, and the university provides all the money to ensure the students are paid a fair wage. Students will generally join the internship scheme in the summer between their second and third year of study, while recent graduates can also apply from October. To apply for an intern, contact the careers team.

4. Placement Students

It is becoming more common for students to take a gap year while studying to get experience in a real working environment, and they make excellent employees for a fixed year contract. Placement students are supported by a member of university staff to ensure they are getting the most out of their experience, and can assist you with anything you need help for.



AS A CHAMBER MEMBER YOU'RE WELL CONNECTED

www.sussexchamberofcommerce.co.uk

01444 259 259

Eager to learn, placement students come from a range of disciplines, and some of them go on to be employed by the businesses they work for full-time after they complete their studies. Contact the careers team or [BMEC](#) for more details.

5. Use the Careers Hub to advertise vacancies for free

Getting your ad in front of the right people is a fundamental part of ensuring you get the best possible fit for your business. A product of the careers team, Careers Hub is the main place Sussex students scour to find a new job. Everything from part-time Saturday work to a full-time placement year is listed on the site, meaning if you're looking for some business support and think a student would be ideal, you need to be getting your listing up on Careers Hub.

To list, you need to contact – you guessed it! – the careers team.

6. Borrow the brains of a Masters Student

Masters students are determined and talented individuals who are often looking to work alongside their studies. Often Masters students want a job that reflects what they're studying, so if your business aligns with any academic disciplines, try to recruit students from that school. You can do this by contacting the relevant school through the university website.

7. Get personal with Careers Fairs

Many universities host careers fairs where local businesses congregate and meet with the student community. These events take place once or twice a year, and are a great opportunity for companies to get their business out there in front of bright young people. Not to mention, the days are usually great fun. One of the biggest careers fairs of the year is held at the AMEX stadium. With over 120 businesses exhibiting, this event is attended by both Brighton and Sussex students of all ages, making it a fantastic one for organisations to appear at.

Details of the next AMEX careers fair can be found by [clicking here](#).

8. Get a more flexible solution with the unique Catalyst Team

Sussex Innovation Centre offers an impressive team of 10 graduates and placement students who are available for businesses to hire on a flexible project basis. This unique team, made up of Sussex students from all disciplines, can help with everything from sales calls to data insight, marketing to research, and all the bits in between. They are fully supported by the Sussex Innovation senior support team who provide training and advice.

You can hire a Catalyst team member for a set hourly rate, from as little as one hour a month right up to full days of work – and there's no long-term contract. This frees up time for business owners to get back to running their company. To hire one of the Catalyst team, contact lucy@sinc.co.uk

9. Be Patient

It can take some time before you find the right student for your business, and even then, there may be some teething problems. It's difficult to explain how to do something you've been doing every day to someone who's never done it before, so be patient when teaching your new employee the important skills. They'll get it eventually!

10. Don't forget Brighton and Chichester

Sussex University isn't the only University in the area with graduates available to growing businesses. Both [Brighton](#) and [Chichester](#) University have dedicated careers teams and a whole host of talented graduates with different offerings looking to support the local economy and gain relevant experience.

We hope you enjoyed our top 10 tips for working with students, and that you feel inspired to hire one of the fantastic young people that Sussex has to offer. If you'd like to find out more about the Catalyst Team or Sussex Innovation Centre, make sure you give Lucy Paine an email at lucy@sinc.co.uk

Thanks for reading!