



How To... *Network as a Student*

from experts, which could be incredibly useful for personal career advancement.

Want to develop your networking skills? Keep reading!

What is networking and why is networking such an important skill?

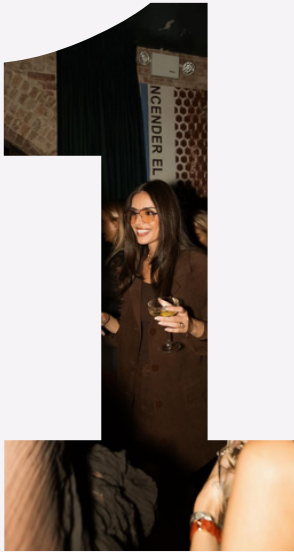
Networking is the process of building and maintaining mutually beneficial relationships with people in order to share ideas, information, and opportunities. As a student, networking is crucial as it can help you build confidence and gain knowledge





“The first step of networking is preparing yourself.”

It is crucial to present yourself professionally in order to boost your confidence and communicate effectively. Preparation involves reflection: developing a clear understanding of your own interests and career goals, as well as being able to explain what you study and what areas interest you. This helps conversations be more purposeful, allowing you to ask thoughtful questions as a networker.



Start by:

Make sure you engage in your study material so you can stay knowledgeable about your field of study: the goal is to not be a know-it-all expert, but to have some basic understanding.



Then:

Stay in the loop of real-life events that happen in your career field or industry: following news channels and even just reading short articles on current affairs, will help you become more knowledgeable and boost your confidence!



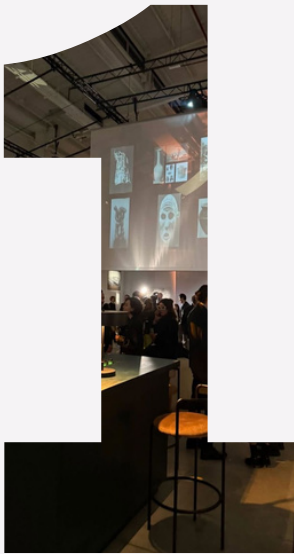
Finally:

Ensure your LinkedIn page (and other professional links) are up-to-date and tidy – this means having a professional profile picture, neatly updated records of your experiences and key skills, etc.





Next, the best way to start networking is to find communities of people who share the same passions and interests as you. For example, you could join a society in university that specialises in your field of study – societies often host networking and social events where you get the wonderful opportunity to meet new people! Even something as simple as having a conversation with your university lecturer, or talking to your classmates, could help build relationships and expand your knowledge in the industry.



Tip Number One:

If the idea of going to a big social event alone seems intimidating, bring a friend if you can!



Tip Number Two:

Make use of your university environment: attend career fairs, build relationships with your lecturer or tutor, join societies and clubs, connect with alumni or guest speakers



Tip Number Three:

Follow industry media and pages to stay up-to-date with potential industry events such as workshops and professional association events – during these events, you will meet individuals in the same field and will be presented with many opportunities to connect!



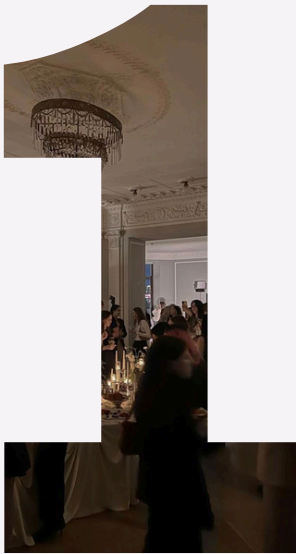


Networking isn't
just about
opportunities
it's also
about
building
genuine
connections
with others.

Finally, networking is about building genuine connections – shift your focus on people, not just opportunities!

Networking is not just transactional – think about developing long-term relationships with the person you are networking with. Importantly, build intention to show genuine curiosity in their own interests and goals, and try to follow up and maintain the relationship.





Starting a Conversation.

Instead of immediately starting a conversation with career opportunities, ask the person about their interests, what made them choose this career path, or what they enjoy most about their work. Express curiosity about their experience!



Using LinkedIn.

Use LinkedIn strategically: connect with people after your conversations and follow up with a short message expressing gratitude for their time, and briefly mention potential opportunities to stay in touch.



Being Yourself.

Don't be pressured into following a 'conversational transcript' – just be yourself: be genuine, authentic, and act natural. Often, short and sweet conversations are more effective than long, 'script-like' conversations.



Conclusion & the Importance of Trusting Yourself.

And lastly... trust yourself! Networking is not as intimidating as it seems – all you need is to have some confidence and a genuine intention. Once you have your first interaction, it will all come naturally... and before you know it, you'll be a networking expert!

