

JOB/INTERNSHIP SEARCH 2020 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MAY 28, 2020

Is Career Services open during the summer?

Yes! All services are being provided virtually! [Resume reviews](#) are done via email, [appointments](#) are happening over the phone or video chat, and [events](#) are taking place webinar-style.

I graduated. Can I still use Career Services?

Congratulations! And yes, our office serves Mason alumni (for life).

Is Career Services doing anything extra to support the Class of 2020?

Absolutely. In addition to the Handshake job database, career counseling appointments and online workshops already offered, Career Services is hosting a virtual job fair [June 18-19](#) ([registration](#) is required by June 15 at noon) and employer panel discussions [throughout the summer](#) on the latest developments in the employment market, recruiting and hiring practices.

Are employers still hiring?

Yes! Mason's Virtual Job Fair is [June 18-19](#). 80+ employers with open jobs/internships are participating. Student/alum [registration](#) is required by June 15 at noon. Additionally, there are over 7,000 active job/internship postings in [Handshake](#) right now.

How do [virtual job fairs](#) work?

Employers' virtual booths often open days prior to the fair date. You can visit the e-booths early to [prepare](#): 1) watch company-branded videos and read recruitment materials 2) see job and internship opportunities and 3) use the Question and Answer feature (submit questions to employers and return for responses).

On the day of the fair, the booths become 'live' and actual recruiters are available via video, phone, and text chat to tell you more about their employment opportunities, company culture and to learn about your interest and qualifications. Dress well (at least from the waist up), be prepared to introduce yourself, ask questions and apply to positions following employer-provided instructions.

I accepted a job offer, but my employer has pushed back my start date indefinitely due to coronavirus. What should I do?

Ideally, move forward in a way that would allow you to both honor your commitment and take care of your financial needs. For example, look for short-term jobs you can do in the interim. This question is so complex though, that we recommend you [schedule an appointment](#) with us to talk through the best way to handle your specific situation.

What if my summer internship was canceled or drastically reduced/altered, or I didn't get a summer internship?

There will be no penalty for not doing a traditional internship this summer. Employers and grad schools will know what happened in 2020. With that said, do make the most of this time by gaining experience through [volunteering remotely](#) (for location select "virtual" on idealist.org and volunteermatch.org), developing in-demand skills from [LinkedIn Learning](#) tutorial videos, building your portfolio through [freelance](#) work and networking at virtual conferences and employer events.

What skills should I focus on developing now? Have employer requirements changed?

Employers want T shaped candidates, who have transferable skills, such as communication (especially important right now), digital technology (including various teleworking platforms), and professionalism/work-ethic for working remotely. These skills broadly apply to any employer or industry. However, employers also want industry-specific or technical skills and certifications. Check out [LinkedIn Learning](#) for thousands of free videos on in-demand technical skills such as scrum, blockchain, cloud computing, data analytics, UX design, business analysis, social media marketing and video production.

What if I lost my job and I just need quick money to pay my living expenses/tuition?

Try to [freelance](#) or use company websites, [Handshake](#) and [remote job sites](#) to find opportunities.

The job market is tough right now and no one is sure when the economy will rebound. What career advice do you have?

Realize that there are opportunities in even the toughest situations. Our career advice is for students to be open to the possibilities. Pursue opportunities that sound interesting,

would allow you to use your strengths or make a great story 5 years from now. It's important to wake up every day with a sense of purpose. So volunteer, do freelance work or develop skills until you land a paid job or career-relevant position. Spend 80% of job search time talking to people about your career interests/qualifications (networking is the most effective job search strategy) and 20% applying to positions advertised online.

As an [international student](#), I am having difficulty finding a job in the U.S. What else can I do?

Conduct a parallel job search to increase your chances of success---apply to jobs in the U.S., your home country and another country in the world (like Canada) at the same time. In the U.S., look for employment related to your major across the entire country, not just the DC area, particularly with employers who do business in your home country and have a history of hiring and sponsoring H1 B visas. [Passport Career](#) is a great resource for you. Of course, feel free to schedule an appointment with Career Services for assistance.

How can I network while social distancing?

There are several [at-home networking strategies](#) you can use. Talk to your faculty about your career interests, find Mason alumni on LinkedIn, invite a former supervisor to a video chat coffee break or participate in virtual career [events](#). For insights on how to use Handshake's peer-to-peer messaging feature, attend an upcoming [Handshake Tips from Mason Students](#) session.

How can I best prepare for a [virtual interview](#)?

For tips, watch our [workshop](#) on this topic. Then, practice! Video record your responses to common interview questions using [InterviewSteam](#) and send your interview link to careers@gmu.edu, a friend, or mentor for feedback. Of course, you can also schedule a live video practice interview appointment through Handshake or by calling 703-993-2370.

Didn't see your question?

Reach out to us directly at careers@gmu.edu or 703-993-2370