Skills Developed In College

You have developed a range of skills through your education, work experience and personal interests and achievements. Understanding what skills you have to offer and like to use can help you understand what you want in a career, as well as providing key information for job or further study applications.

In terms of securing a job, academic qualifications alone will not guarantee success. Evidence-based skills sections on your CV can demonstrate the broad range of qualities you have to offer employers. Here are some of the main skills you may have developed while in college:

- **Communication skills, both verbal and written**
  Expressing ideas effectively and conveying information appropriately and accurately. Influencing others by expressing self effectively in a group and in one to one situations. Showing a range of verbal and nonverbal signals that the information being received is understood.

- **Teamwork/Working with others**
  Working effectively and confidently within a group to achieve a common goal or task. Including understanding your role within the team, and listening and supporting other team members.

- **Problem-solving ability**
  Identifying, prioritising and solving problems, individually or in groups; possessing the ability to ask the right questions, sort out the many facets of a problem, and contribute ideas as well as answers regarding the problem.

- **Time-management skills/Ability to meet deadlines**
  Managing several tasks at once; being able to set priorities and to allocate time efficiently in order to meet deadlines

- **Planning and Organising**
  Establishing a course of action for self and/or others to accomplish a specific goal. Planning proper assignments of personnel and appropriate allocation of resources.

- **Leadership skills**
  Motivating and taking responsibility to lead other people, in order to achieve set goals and objectives.

- **Initiative & self-management**
  Identifying opportunities and being proactive in putting forward ideas and potential solutions. Self-disciplined and self-motivated, in the pursuit of studies and professional practice.
**Ability to make quick decisions/Work under pressure**

Making decisions and taking action. Maintaining performance under pressure and/or opposition.

You may also have developed a wide range of technical/specific course related skills

### Types of Employers / Industry Sectors

Some of the main types of employers / industry sectors in which Leisure Management graduates work include:

- Fitness and Leisure Centres
- Boutique Gyms
- Hotel Leisure Centres and Spas
- County Councils
- Leisure Management Consultancies
- Sports Associations
- Sports Clubs
- Charities/Voluntary Organisations
- Tour Managers/Operators
- Entertainment/Cinema Complexes
- Activity Centres
- Membership Clubs/Gaming/Casino
- Theme parks
- Cruise Ships
- Educational Institutions
- Sport Professional/National Governing Bodies
- Sports Councils

For sector information see [GradIreland, Careers Portal, Prospects (UK)](https://www.gradireland.ie) & [Target Jobs (UK)](https://www.targetjobs.co.uk).

### Career Options With Your Course (including job profiles)

Some of main occupations secured by Leisure Management graduates include:

- Sports Coach
- Fitness Instructor
- Personal Trainer
- Strength & Conditioning Coach
- Performance Analyst
- Sports Development Officer
- Sports Administrator
- Conference and Exhibition Manager
- Customer Service Manager
- Duty Manager
- Sport Officer
- Operations Manager
- Sales Executive
- Account Manager
- Tourism Manager (Sports Tours)
- Manager (Retail)
- Tourist Information Officer
- Event Manager
- Marketing Officer
- Tourist Information Officer
- Event Manager
- Marketing Officer
- Journalist

For more occupational information see GradIreland, Careers Portal, Prospects (UK) & Target Jobs (UK).

### Employers Who Have Recruited in Your Area

Some of the companies who have recruited Leisure Management graduates:

- Ben Dunne Gyms
- Westwood club
- The Marker
- Monart
- GAA Museum Croke Park
- Defence Forces
- Elvery’s
- Arnott’s
- DB Sports
- Dublin City Council
- Club travel
- Sky
- Irish Ferries
- TGI Friday’s
- Guinness Storehouse
- Hostelworld
- Radisson Blu
- AIB
- Google
- Avoca
- Dublin Airport Authority
- Fáilte Ireland
- Budget School and Group Tours
- Enterprise Rent-a-Car
- Tour America
- Irish Red Cross
- Deloitte

### Job Hunting

It is important that you access both the advertised and hidden jobs market and use any and every means available to you to job hunt effectively

### Advertised Jobs
WEBSITES

• Most University and IT Careers Services have jobs listings on their websites
  • dit.ie/jobscene (grad programmes and immediate vacancies)
  • dit.ie/careers/careersdiary/ (List of Career Events throughout year)

• Graduate jobs in UK: www.prospects.ac.uk & www.targetjobs.co.uk

• www.gradireland.com – Immediate jobs/Summer/Grad programmes: e.g. EOP (IBEC Global Graduates), Enterprise Ireland, Irish Distillers, Jet Programme, Graduates 4 International Growth

• Internships/Work placement/Work Experience. E.g. IBEC graduate scheme - http://ibecglobalgraduates.ie, iagora.com, eurobrussels.com, eu-careers.eu, digitalmarketingjobs.ie, internships.com

• Company websites – look at advertised vacancies under jobs /careers section

• Local and national press – www.mondotimes.com

• Public Service - www.publicjobs.ie, www.localgovernmentjobs.ie

• Recruitment Agencies/On-line recruitment sites, e.g. www.irishjobs.ie/agencies – complete list of agencies

LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES:

• Sports and Leisure Jobs - www.sportsjobs.ie
• Leisure Jobs - www.leisurejobs.com/
• Leisure Management - www.leisuremanagement.co.uk/
• Leisure Opportunities - www.leisureopportunities.co.uk/
• Leisure Recruitment - www.leisurejobs.net/
• Leisure Week - www.leisureweek.com/
• Outdoor Staff - www.outdoorstaff.co.uk
• New Zealand Recruitment Information Resource - www.backpackerboard.co.nz
• World Leisure Organisation - www.worldleisurejobs.com/

TEACHING

• Teaching jobs: educationcareers.ie, educationposts.ie, euraxess.ie, hemanet.ie, jobs.ac.uk, www.education.ie – English Language Assistant Scheme

VOLUNTARY / CHARITY / NGO SECTOR


OTHER

• Careers fairs – Gradireland Fair – Autumn and Summer Fair, plus many others
• Specialist Magazines & Publications,
• Notice boards/Student email account/Lecturers

INTERNATIONAL RELATED
• Internships/Job Opportunities Worldwide. E.g. iagora.com, eurojobs.com, Intergrad international career opportunities – http://tinyurl.com/d7pluyx, overseasjobs.com, jobrapido.com

Unadvertised Jobs

NETWORKING
• Job Shadow/Informational Interviewing/work experience
• Use help from anyone in your Network – friends, family, neighbours, colleagues, friends from clubs & societies...
• Attend events, conferences, short courses, trade shows
• Thesis/College work /guest speakers
• First Destination Reports
• Professional Bodies
• Business and Other Associations
• Join Alumni Association/LinkedIn DIT Alumni group
• Find a mentor/keep a job hunting record

CONTACT COMPANIES DIRECTLY
• Speculative applications + cold calling. Think about your offering
• Contact organisation with ideas (ways to reduce costs, make them more money, speed up R+D, Your Unique Selling Point)
• Utilise directories – Kompass.com, IDA, Marketing Services Directory, professional bodies, golden pages

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
• Freelancing/Work experience/Self-employment/Start-Up http://www.dit.ie/careers/studentsgraduates/interestedinselfemployment/
• DIT Hothouse - www.dit.ie/hothouse/
• Local Enterprise Office - www.localenterprise.ie
• The Digital Hub - www.thedigitalhub.com

TRACK COMPANIES
• Scholarships/Competitions/Blogs / Guest lecturer
• Check out Labour Market trends, www.careersportal.ie, IDA, IBEC (Retail/Financial Services), www.dit.ie/careers (labour market news)
• Search newspaper business pages on-line to get success stories on businesses as they are growing – DIT Careers website (labour market news) www.dit.ie/careers
• Check out industry award recipients,
• Best Workplaces in Ireland (download on gradireland.com)

OTHER PROACTIVE IDEAS
• Social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Blog, Discussion Groups) LinkedIn (set up a profile, link to others, search for companies - employees who have Linked-in profiles, advertised jobs)
- Follow target companies on Facebook, LinkedIn, twitter
- Think of small companies not just big brands
- Consider alternative roles (marketing, sales, PR)
- Undertake voluntary work

For more information on how to go about finding a job and job-hunting sites, click here

**Interviews**

For more information on how to perform in interviews, click here

**CVs/Cover Letters & Applications**

For information on how to put together a great CV/Cover Letter or Application, click here

**Useful Links (e.g. Company Databases, Professional Bodies, LinkedIn Groups)**

This list contains links to some of the most useful websites for your course including professional bodies and associations, employer directories, information sources and LinkedIn groups.

### General Websites

- Ireland Active (The Leisure Health and Fitness Association) - [http://www.irelandactive.ie/](http://www.irelandactive.ie/)
- Health & Safety Authority - [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)
- Federation of Irish Sports - [www.irishsport.ie](http://www.irishsport.ie)
- Irish Sports Council - [www.irishsportscouncil.ie](http://www.irishsportscouncil.ie)
- Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport - [http://www.dttas.ie/](http://www.dttas.ie/)
- British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers & Attractions - [www.balppa.org/](http://www.balppa.org/)
- International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions - [www.iaapa.org/](http://www.iaapa.org/)

### LinkedIn Groups

- Sports Careers – jobs and careers in sports, leisure and fitness
- Sports Industry Network
- Sports Careers by WorkInSports.com

### Careers Open To All Disciplines (including ‘Paths into……’ series)

Many graduate vacancies don't require specific degree subjects as possession of a degree is taken as evidence of intellectual ability. What is more important to the potential employer is the range of transferable skills and experience you can demonstrate.

Many graduate training programmes take final year students from a wide range of disciplines – register with the Career Development Centre’s Jobscene for a full list of programmes.

Here is a range of career areas that are potentially open to graduates of all disciplines. It’s important to note that some of these options may require further study either on the job or beforehand. If you are considering diversifying or changing career direction a postgraduate conversion course may be a
viable option.

Some examples of career areas open to students of all disciplines:

- **Teaching & Education**
- **Financial Services & Accounting**
- **Marketing, Advertising and PR**
- **Retail, Sales and Customer Service**
- **Banking, insurance and financial services**
- **Charities and voluntary sector**
- **Fund management / administration and investment banking**
- **Human resources, recruitment and training**
- **Management consulting**
- **Management, business and administration**
- **Media and publishing**
- **Public sector and civil service**
- **Social, community and youth**

**Further Study (including Postgraduate Conversion Courses)**

Are you considering further study or training? Click [here](#) for comprehensive information.

**Conversion courses**

Some graduates find that their primary degree did not meet their expectations, either vocationally, academically or personally, and seek to change career direction. Conversion courses offer the opportunity to diversify into another chosen career area while meeting the necessary entry requirements for that discipline. However, it should be noted that this is not the case for all disciplines e.g. disciplines such as science and engineering will require an undergraduate degree in that discipline.

As with all choices good research and planning are very important.

Here are some examples of postgraduate courses pursued by graduates of your discipline:

- **Alternative/Complementary Therapy Courses** - Various
- **Physiotherapy Courses – Undergraduate and Masters Degrees** - Various: UK (e.g. Essex)
- **Physical Education Teaching Courses** - Various: Undergraduate - Ireland & and PCGE Teacher Training Courses – UK (e.g. Edge Hill, Sheffield Hallam)
- **General Postgraduate Teaching Courses** - Various: Ireland and UK

**Self-Employment**

Ever thought of being your own boss? Think you have an innovative product or service idea that could have commercial value? Want to commercialise your research? Click [here](#) for more information.

**Other Options (e.g. Time out, travel etc.)**

Volunteering and working with communities with is a great way to gain valuable real world
experience, to develop new skills, to meet new people, to do something worthwhile and to improve your employability. For more details, see [here](#).

**Labour Market Information**

For information on the latest labour market trends see [here](#).

**Additional Information / Advice**

For any query you might have, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Disclaimer: DIT Career Development Centre offers advice in good faith on the basis of the best information available. The Centre accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice.