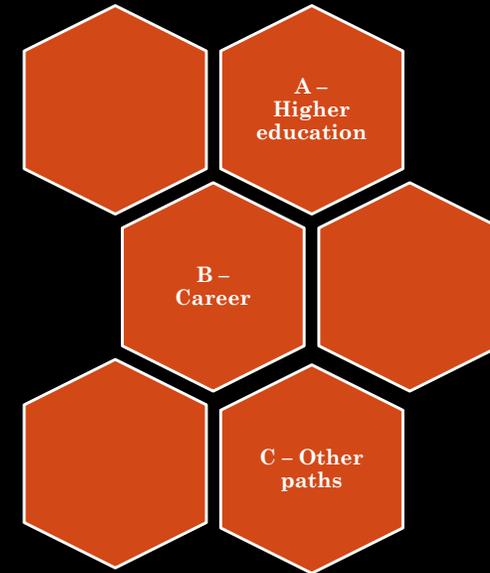


# University – next steps



# University – next steps

After University, life can seem very daunting. Up to now, there has been a clear path in your education and career. Life from now is very much dependent on your efforts, your commitment, and your long-term plan. It can be difficult to know where to start. To help you along we have compiled a few places you can start your research from, to know what steps you should take next. Keep in mind that the links listed here are merely starting points in your research. Keep researching, and find.

## **A – Higher education**

Higher education is a very tempting and rewarding pathway after your undergraduate degree, but make sure it is the right option for you. Research entails a lot of hard work, and long periods of time trying to find the solution to one question. You will feel much frustration, and hard work, but the results can be exceptional.

# A – Higher education

## **Finding the correct course**

It is very important for you to consider what your future plans are. Look into what you wish to accomplish and what your aims are. Sometimes alternative routes are equally useful. The following are some websites that you can use to find out

- [A general guide into postgraduate study with opportunities](#)
- [The different types of postgraduate research](#)
- [Courses directory](#)

## **The right institution and group**

When it comes to research, different research groups at different institutions are not the same. Find out what exactly the group is working towards, read their research papers, and if possible reach out to someone in their group to learn more about it. It will give you a great introduction to their department, but also give your sufficient background knowledge if you wish to apply for a place. What it essentially boils down to is this: do your research beforehand, to make sure that you are a good fit for them, and they are a good fit for you.

Find papers by institution, professor names, and/or topics at: [arXiv](#), [jstor](#), [links to free resources](#), [oxford journals](#),

# A – Higher education

## **Skills and work experience**

When applying for opportunities, the programme supervisor will often look at your previous experience, and skillset. This will mainly show them any additional practice you have gained, but also your passion for the subject. You can find many opportunities at your own universities, and some are listed below. It does not matter if the subject of the placement is not completely aligned to your future goals; the main point is that you are learning research skills.

- [General internship and placement opportunities](#)
- Other institutions: [RSB](#), [NERC](#), [BBSRC](#),

# B – Career

When you go into the professional world for the first time, there are a lot of new, and exciting but also daunting experiences you have to face. Knowing what you are up against, so that you can guide your career towards your desired outcome, can set you up for a very fulfilling future. Take some time to decide on what your future goals are, and how you are going to work around your other responsibilities to get there.

## **Finding a job**

We are often attracted to a job due to the glamour, and prestige. To find out if you truly enjoy the career, why not look into typical days of various careers to understand what they encompass. Furthermore, your job hunting should be a step-by-step process, so that you do not get overwhelmed.

- [Read about the typical days in the lives of professionals](#)
- [A handy printable, step-by-step checklist when job hunting](#)
- [A guide for finding the right career](#)

# B – Career

## **Help for applications**

There is a lot of help out there when job hunting. Below are some resources, but you can of course, find many more online.

- [Read advice on the different aspects of the application process](#)
- [Read reviews on interviews, and society of different companies](#)

## **Imposter syndrome**

One other important thing to note: a lot of people feel imposter syndrome in a new job. They feel that they are not good enough for the job, especially when looking at the job requirements. But just like you are making a compromise, if you do not find your ideal job, most employers are also happy in making a compromise in their next employee. Employers look at how well you fit into their culture amongst other things, they not concerned with just ticking boxes. Additionally, we often feel inadequate in ourselves, when in actual fact we are more than capable.

# B – Career

## **New skills and requirements**

You have studied for many years to learn an incredible number of skills and gain knowledge. Yet, it is important that you can also demonstrate some transferrable skills and show - and not just tell - how you are developing yourself towards your desired career path. Learning new skills, and possibly getting certified in them, can make a difference in your application.

- [Udemy](#)
- [Coursera](#)

## **Networking**

Networking is very important. If you have not already started to do so, start as soon as you can. Although it may seem unfair, but a lot of people start off their career by getting a position from an acquaintance or relative. Although you may be qualified, if the recruiter does not know you, you are just a name on a paper. If people already know your personality, they will be more inclined to take you on. Start networking on relevant events, and workshops, to build your circle.

- [Make use of LinkedIn](#)
- Attend careers fairs at university, [but also independent groups](#)

# B – Career

## Internships

Internships are a great way to start a career, if you are lacking relevant experience. Occasionally, these will be unpaid. Yet, if you can afford it, go for these experiences. They will be a great help to your future career. Also, make use of any friends or acquaintances; see if their company allows you to temporarily work with them, or shadow them.

- [Guardian, Start-ups](#)

## A little fun

Looking for a job can be extremely stressful. Don't forget to relax once in a while. The following are some links that you can have fun with, and maybe you will learn something about yourself along the way.

- [Quizzes to find your dream job](#)
- [Ted talks to get you motivated](#)

## Starting your own business

Again, there is much advice that you can get online for starting your own business. Make sure that you have a plan in place, including a contingency plan, before you start it. There are many tricky details, that you will have to work through. The below links should help you on your way, but also look at the section for acquiring additional skills online.

- [Forbes' 35-step guide](#)

# C – other paths

There is also a possibility to temporarily or permanently move away from education or a fixed career; but you should never stop learning. You can become more skilled, so that you can support yourself, engage your interests and passions, or just be a better educator to your children. Below are ways that you can ensure that you continue to grow.

## **Learn new skills**

There are many places online, where you can get free or paid instructions on technical or creative skills. Some even have certificates attached to them. Try to broaden your knowledge in your interests and always continue learning.

- Wide range, with some free courses: [Udemy](#)
- Creative skills, with free classes as well: [Skillshare](#)
- Technical instruction, where you can also earn certificates is: [EdX](#)
- Professional and technical courses, with hands on training: [Lynda](#)

# C – other paths

## Community and workshops

Learning by yourself may bring its own advantages, but when your motivation is low, it is helpful to be surrounded by a community on the same path; or to attend talks or lectures, that can inspire you to continue working.

- [Eventbrite](#)
- [Meetup](#)
- [Talk and lectures around uk](#)
- [Tedx talks](#)
- [British library events](#)

We hope that this simple guide may have helped you to get some bearings on your future plans. Please pray that we may continue to improve on the guidance that we are able to give all Ahmadi Lajna students. If there is any further help you require, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to guide you wherever we can.