

Developing skills outside the curriculum

What can you do whilst at university to develop your skills and ensure that you stand out from other applicants? The ideas below outline some opportunities on offer at London Met to allow you to develop your skills and confidence.

Work experience, placements and volunteering. Any type of experience in the workplace, whether paid or unpaid, will allow you to gain an insight into the sector and allow you to develop commercial awareness as well as an understanding of how to meet customer needs and manage resources efficiently. Dealing with customers will allow you to develop communication and problem-solving skills, as well as the ability to manage situations where events are not going according to plan. You may be expected to manage your workload to meet deadlines, and for some, there may also be opportunities to take responsibility for supervising others or for leading on specific tasks or projects.

For guidance on finding opportunities visit the [Finding Work](#) and [Work-Based Learning](#) pages. If you log into the [MyCareer platform](#), you can find details on paid employment and placements as well as volunteering opportunities in the not-for-profit sector.

Student Ambassadors help at University open days and Higher Education Fairs, visit local schools and colleges to talk about their university experience and actively assist students through acting as mentors. These activities offer an excellent opportunity to develop communication, influencing and leadership skills, in that you would be involved in presenting information, explaining ideas and supporting and motivating students. Examples of problem solving in this context might include identifying an effective way to explain a complex idea to a pupil, whilst organisational skills could be enhanced through planning a presentation, or managing time to ensure that you arrive promptly in the correct location. Recruitment usually takes place in September and to find out more visit the [student ambassador](#) web page.

Student Representatives are students elected by their peers to represent their views and articulate concerns. Each course will have its own StAR who sits on course committee meetings to raise issues, contribute ideas and give students a voice in the decision-making process. In relation to skills development the role therefore provides experience of collecting information, analysing current issues, presenting information in an organised way within a formal context, influencing the decision making process and helping to generate solutions to problems identified. The programme programme is managed by the [Student Union](#), so refer to their web pages for details.

Success Coaches. The PASS Scheme (peer assisted student success) provides opportunities for second and third year students to act as “success coaches”, providing guidance to first years that can help them to develop a better understanding of course content and what is required in assessments, good academic skills and strategies for becoming successful students. They work with first-year students in small groups and also provide one-to-one advice. This role provides an excellent opportunity to develop confident communication skills, the ability to plan a schedule of meetings, show flexibility in responding to individual needs and a proactive approach to problem-solving. Please see the [PASS scheme web pages](#) for details on how and when to apply.

The **Student Union** supports student clubs and societies as well as a magazine and radio station. It therefore offers a wealth of opportunities to work alongside others, to get involved in student life and to contribute towards the wider university community. Involvement in running a student society might help to develop commercial awareness (through managing a budget for example), or planning and team working skills when organising a series of events.

[London Met Student Enterprise](#) aims to support those interested in creating and developing business ideas and offers an annual business plan competition as well as providing networking events for budding entrepreneurs. The University's school of computing also organises its own series of monthly enterprise workshops, and these are particularly valuable opportunities for developing commercial awareness. In addition researching a business idea invariably involves collecting and analysing data and presenting this in a logical manner with the aim of influencing potential investors and customers. This process could also involve problem solving as your ideas may well need to evolve in the light of information gathered.

[London Met Career Mentoring programmes](#). These provide a great opportunity for students to gain an insight into the world of work and to develop an awareness of effective communication within a professional context. Involvement in the [careers mentoring programme](#) can also develop organisational skills as you must arrange a series of contacts with your mentor and plan what you hope to achieve during each. Applications usually open in October/November each year. In addition, you can refer to the page on our careers portal which lists some [external mentoring scheme providers](#).

[The careers portal](#): online skills development. The portal offers a series of resources to help develop your [business skills](#). These include for example communication, leadership, business numeracy and business writing skills. In addition, there is a section to support the development of [IT skills](#) at both beginner and intermediate level.

[LinkedIn learning](#) can be accessed by all current students on the LinkedIn learning platform where there are literally thousands of courses available on topics ranging from IT and programming languages to leadership, project management, critical thinking and communicating with confidence.