



Careers panel: How did you get here?

Contributed by Dawn Bennett

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An effective way to learn about interesting careers is to host a careers panel. Invite three to five faculty members, graduate students or industry members to be on a panel. These sessions generally take between 60 and 90 minutes and they work best if the room is small enough not to need microphones. The sample questions on the handout provide some useful examples, but challenge students to supplement these with at least three of their own. Ask them to think about what they *really* want to know!

This TILE tool is available as a pdf and as a word document so that you can customise it for your own classes. I also have a set of questions specifically for music students. Let me know if you would like a copy of the music set; and if you develop a set for your discipline, please consider sharing it with the network.

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TILE tools form part of an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Fellowship. The tools are available to all members for use in teaching and mentoring. Contributions, feedback and new network members are always welcome, as are research collaborations. For more information, please contact Professor Dawn Bennett at d.bennett@curtin.edu.au

Careers panel sample questions

What do you wish you had learned when you were an undergraduate?

Where do you want to be in five years' time?

What do you want to be doing in five years' time?

What was your first paid job in _____?

What was your worst ever experience in _____?

If you won the lottery this week, what would you change about your work?

Who are your heroes?

What did you do in the year after graduation?

What skills do you think all _____'s need?

What attributes do you think all _____'s need?

What would you change about _____ degrees?

What graduate study do you recommend, and why?

How many different jobs have you held at any one time?

What do you most love to do in _____? Why?

What are the negatives of being employed full-time in _____?

What kinds of job-related things do you read?

Which networks do you engage in, and why?

What are the pitfalls of working as a _____?

What are the good things about freelance life?

If you could go back in time to when you were 20, what would you do?

How would you define a _____ if you were asked to create a dictionary entry?

What do you do to relax?

What do you recommend we do whilst we are studying, to get ahead?

What is your dream job?

What in _____ do you hate doing, and how do you avoid it?

How do you practice, maintain or improve your skills?

Do you have any regrets about your career so far?

How do we get people to hire us or buy our product rather than someone else's?

If you had the keys to Dr Who's TARDIS, where would you go and why?

Who is the most useful person you ever met in _____ and why?

Your questions (what do you *really* want to know?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.