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NEXT STEP



The university bucket list

The long class hours and exhausting assignment deadlines can often make you lose sight of the big picture- that is, the life after graduation. Whether you're opting for a masters degree or want to join the workforce, a few steps during university can give you the extra edge you need to attain your long term goals.

Try maintaining a high CGPA

While many of you will roll your eyes and say that "grades don't define you", a high CGPA will definitely come in handy, especially if you want to apply for a master's program. Remember, universities don't personally know you and your CGPA is one of their only tools to assess your skills. Alternatively, if you're hitting the job market as a fresh graduate, you'd be competing with plenty of people from different walks of life, many of whom are more experienced than you. A good CGPA can show employers that you are qualified and you're able to learn. Here's a tip to get a head start, don't start the assignment at 3 am the day before your deadline!

Join a club

What better place to get to know your university than a club of your choice! Whether it is to learn more about your field or try out new hobbies, clubs are a great way to get to know your seniors and work with a

diverse group of people. Through a series of unique challenges, clubs push you out of your comfort zone and help you become a better performer under stress, honing your leadership and communication skills in the process. Chances are, you won't get along with every single person in the club and there will be a lot of club politics. However, setting differences aside to work together for a single objective is just one of those real world skills that aren't taught in classrooms. The bright side is that it's not all stressful work. Clubs often host events and parties that can help you de-stress when the university workload gets excruciatingly difficult. So, be sure to hit the club fair next semester.

Participate in competitions

To stand out in your field, two skills are highly important - problem solving and leadership. Employers are constantly searching for these qualities among fresh graduates and the best way to hone such skills is to participate in competitions. You

don't have to limit yourself to just your field. Be it business competitions from corporate giants or programming contests sponsored by tech companies, each competition would provide you with a unique set of problems to challenge yourself. Of course, what's better than participating is actually winning a competition! Not only do you get bragging rights, but it tells your future employers that you're a keen problem solver and that they can count on you to have a proactive attitude at the workplace.

Find a teacher you look up to

Over the four years, you are bound to meet plenty of individuals who will inspire you and drive you towards your goals. Your teachers are not only highly talented in their respective fields but probably have exciting research that you could be involved in or industry connections that can help you get ahead. In fact, they might be able to give you helpful insight regarding your future careers. So, don't hesitate.

Make it a habit of talking to your teachers and finding out about their professional interests.

Get an internship (or part-time work)

For many students, internships are basically a requirement to graduate university. Even if internships aren't compulsory in your coursework, do try to get some work experience while you're still at university. Remember that meme where employers want fresh graduates to have ten years of work experience? Well, it's not entirely a myth. Employers do appreciate some sort of work experience. Not only does internships and part-time work look good on your resume, they prepare you for the real world out there, providing you with opportunities to lead, network and learn along the way. If your boss likes you, you can surely expect a good recommendation from him or her.

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THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY



10 resume mistakes to avoid

According to studies, recruiters spend 6 seconds on average scanning your resume. In these 6 seconds, your resume needs to compel your recruiters into wanting to follow up with you. While misspellings and grammatical errors are the obvious faux pas to avoid, the more common mistakes are deviously easy to make. Check out this list to dodge the common blunders that can wreck your shot at employment

Outrageous enlargement of the font size of your name: Believe it or not, your name is the least important element of your resume. So while it's acceptable to use it on top, it's not a smart choice to have the font sized at 36.

Unnecessary personal info: Do not put your marital status, religious preference or your age in your resume. This won't just cram your resume; it may severely backfire if your employer is biased against said orientations.

Redundant observable words: Don't write 'phone number' before you write your phone number, or 'email address' before you write your email address. Rule of thumb is to only write things that aren't morbidly obvious.

Email address of an 11-year-old: If you're still using the email ID you created as a kid, you might want to change the princess_xoxo@xyz.com to something more professional with preferably just your real name.

Irrelevant and outdated work info: You might've tutored a student into getting a golden A+ in her HSCs, but employers don't really care about that work experience of yours. Avoid mentioning any work that isn't going to be of interest to your potential recruiters. If you're in your mid-career, you might also want to avoid jotting down impermanent, short-lived jobs you held at the start of your career.

Arbitrary demarcations of skills: You might be super

savvy with PowerPoint and your Photoshop skills may be a clear 9/10 in your head, but unless you are a certified PowerPoint guru from a credible institution, you cannot randomly quantify your skill levels depending on how you feel about them. This is a major error most recruiters cringe at the sight of.

Leisurely hobbies: Recruiters don't want to know if you like travelling during the summer or enjoy singing in the shower. They have absolutely no use for that information.

Inappropriate fonts: Outdated fonts such as Times New Roman are discouraged. Fancy cursive fonts borrowed straight from a wedding card is unacceptable. Use standard sans-serif fonts like Arial to dodge any damage.

Maddening buzzwords: "Think outside the box," "Synergy," "Disruptive growth" etc. might be trending buzzwords, but they don't deserve a place in your resume.

Cluttered layout: Unless you're applying for a graphics designing job, your recruiters won't expect your resume to be a wondrous depiction of art. Keep the layout plain, simple and aesthetically pleasing. Don't cram it with irrelevant text or obsolete bars and charts.

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Making a DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh is rapidly moving towards middle income status by 2021. Our businesses definitely offer immense opportunities for the growing economy and this diversity needs a stage for the stories untold. See Bangladesh make its mark on the global map as Making a Difference brings you our proudest success stories from across the country.

Am I running out of time?

On some days, you feel full of positivity. You get up in the morning and feel pumped up to get a hundred things done in a day. Then something goes wrong, maybe the day starts with a terrible cup of tea, or you get stuck in traffic for 2 hours, or your boss yells at you. Then you come home, upload a status about what a horrible day you had, and you realise that you actually didn't manage to get a lot done. It seems that you were busy and stressed out, yet you weren't productive. Here's how you can get more done in 24 hours.

Get enough sleep

If you don't sleep for at least 6 hours, you will be tired for the rest of the day. Sleeping is not a waste of time - you need it in order to be a functional, productive being. It's tragic how we write about all the work stuff we have to finish in a day and the meals we have to cook in our planner, and sleep is always the last priority. So start now, and try to get to bed before midnight.

Read more

No matter which profession you're in, knowledge

is power. If you're stuck in traffic for hours, use that time to read instead of playing useless games on your phone.

Maintain a to-do list

You will be amazed at how beneficial it is to write things down instead of just making mental notes. You will be able to prioritise and organise, and your life will be less stressful.

