Postgraduate courses

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‘There’s a lot of fluidity in this new tech world’ Jobs of the future page 2
Postgraduate courses

Introduction

Rachael Hall

Choose a postgraduate course to reboot your career prospects

Once a year, many of Britain’s leading universities offer the chance to apply for a postgraduate Master’s programme. These courses can ’offer a master’s programme. “Britain and games to explore the potential of immersive technologies are an exciting new opportunity for us. “Immersive technologies are an

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Media reboot
The real story is the rise of data

As video and data skills change the face of journalism, universities must keep pace with their postgrad offerings

Helena Pozniak

In the fast-growing international field of media and news, postgraduate courses are an integral part of the education process. However, the roles of journalism and publishing at the journalism and multiplatform and digital forms are emerging. “The key thing is to understand the world and how things are changing,” says Simon Bradshaw. “You want to be the one with specialist skills that they don’t want to let go after an internship.”

But not all postgraduate degrees currently cultivate the skills that they don’t want to let go after an internship. "Now virtual reality, augmented reality, and other technologies are a powerful way to communicate complex things. For journalists, this is more important than ever, given the sheer bulk of online content. They then supplemented this with traditional reporting, and so on."

These include "soft skills" – trust and self-discipline, the ability to build and maintain networks, communication and empathy, creativity and awareness of the world, and the ability to collaborate as well as compete. In this complex environment, what you are is vital to what you do – not only in the upper edges of leadership but in every role.

In the UK, postgraduate courses are an important part of the student population, which reached 7.25 million students in 2015 – a record high. The number of students in universities worldwide – and these numbers are projected to keep on increasing.

Universities have historically taken their role in preparing people very seriously: the process of education includes building habits of mind and character as well as higher-order learning. And universities are, in many cases, the only places in the world where students are exposed to complex social and democratic foundations on a real level.

But postgraduate degrees nationally cultivate a person’s capacity for trust, purposeful leadership, or building social connections with others. Some might promote creativity, problem-solving and team work. Others immerse a person in knowledge-intensive, specialized and competitive careers. But few offer all of those things. Does the ultimate postgraduate qualification, then, most effectively prepare students for leadership roles, as well as cognitive skills? What if there were degrees that taught the "who we are” as well as the "how we work academically"? What if unprofessional and high-level emotional literacy became fundamental of all programs, from undergraduate to postgraduate? What would this look like?

If the UK is to retain a first-class, distinctive higher education sector as a fast-growing international field our universities worldwide – and these numbers are projected to keep on increasing.

You want to be the one with specialist skills that they don’t want to let go after an internship.

Paul Bradshaw

Birmingham City University

Comment

Alison Wood
Postgrad courses must cultivate emotional and organisational traits too

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Astral geeks
Why postgrads are turning to space

Practice knowledge and placements make courses a hit for engineers and scientists

Lucy Tseute

Space engineering is big, but it’s gaining popularity with postgraduates, and not just because it yields expertise in science, math, business, and other disciplines. “In the past, students interested in astronomy or astrophysics had few options,” says Jocelyn Warner, a research associate at the University of Oxford. “Now, the field is becoming more diverse and inclusive.”

Interview by Rachel Hall

Imagine life without it
‘Space is as much a part of my life as the south of Brazil, where I was born,’ says Thais Roasson, 33, with a smile. “It was my dream to be an astronaut. Growing up, I was always interested in science, but I didn’t have someone to tell me it was possible.”

Roasson is not alone. Many young girls are inspired by stories of astronauts and are encouraged to study science. “I was 11 years old and I was watching 2001: A Space Odyssey,” she says. “I thought it was so cool and exciting. I wanted to be an astronaut.”

But Roasson had to study something, so she decided to pursue a degree in aerospace medicine at the University of São Paulo in Brazil. “I wanted to learn more about the human body in space,” she says. “I wanted to understand the anatomy of a spacecraft and the communications applications, among other topics.”

At Southampton, staff and students work with industry at the European Space Agency, Airbus and Airbus Defence. “Students in our programs are in a unique position,” says Roasson. “We have the opportunity to work with industry experts and learn about the latest technologies.”

Apprenticeships
Elevating managers to the next level

Level 7 apprenticeships in financial services appeal to senior staff wanting to upskill

Lucy Tseute

Banks are increasingly looking for managers with level 7 apprenticeship qualifications, which offer a higher level of apprenticeships – everything from business administration to financial planning – and result in a master’s qualification.

Leaves, 25, is a senior manager at Solent University. “If you’re upskilling, you want the Valentina project to open doors,” she says. “I’ve heard of them. Three years, and then we can make a decision to move on.”

Other universities offer courses that begin at undergraduate level and result in a master’s qualification: “The time feels right for me to start learning again. My company has been very supportive in terms of further training and development. But MBAs and other general management degrees require a high price tag. I think opening people’s eyes to this program has been a good thing.”

The master’s program is perfect, she says. “It’s a great way to stay relevant in the workforce, to keep learning.”

Leaves was able to find a job in business administration and applied management, which offered him the opportunity to work with industry partners in the aerospace industry. “I’m now at that point in my career where you look at the level of the colleges offered, while also considering what level of industry you would like to work in.”

The university’s MSc space science and technology degree is offered in collaboration with the University of Oxford and the University of Birmingham. It is a two-year, full-time program that covers topics such as space environment, space mission design, and space materials science.

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**Postgraduate courses**

**MBAs**

Soft skills, hard to beat

They don’t come cheap, but the blend of business skills offered by an MBA could future-proof your career. Seb Murray

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A number of MBAs attract plenty of interest from universities, industry, or businesses to be sure they’re getting a good education. If you’re looking for a career in business, or you’re looking to expand your business, then an MBA could be your best option.

The MBA degree program is designed to help you develop the skills you need to succeed in today’s business world. It is a great way to get ahead in your career.

**Grant, scholarship and loan options**

Loans for postgrad study are still a new thing. But they’re neither the only nor always the best option. Seb Murray

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If you’re thinking about taking out loans to fund your postgraduate studies, it’s important to consider the different financing options that might be available to you. There are a variety of loan types, and each one has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Here are some things to consider when thinking about taking out a loan to fund your postgraduate studies:

- **Types of loans**: There are different types of loans available, including government loans, private loans, and loans from banks. Each type of loan has different terms and conditions.
- **Interest rates**: The interest rate on your loan will depend on the type of loan you choose and the lender you work with. Some loans have lower interest rates than others.
- **Repayment terms**: Loans have different repayment terms, so it’s important to understand how much you’ll have to repay over time.
- **Loan limits**: Loan limits vary depending on the type of loan and the lender. You may be able to borrow more or less depending on your financial situation.

It’s important to carefully consider these factors when deciding whether or not to take out a loan to fund your postgraduate studies. Taking out a loan can be a good way to fund your studies, but it’s important to make sure you can afford the loan payments and that you’ll be able to repay the loan in full.

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For more information, please visit [www.qmu.ac.uk](http://www.qmu.ac.uk).
Funding, staff and other relaxation therapies can clear the mind. Here are the simple steps to take before you attend a lecture or seminar:

1. **Prepare your mind:** Before you start studying or working, take a few minutes to relax and clear your mind. You could do this by taking a deep breath, closing your eyes, or simply taking a few moments to reflect on your goals and intentions.

2. **Identify your worries:** Make a list of your worries and concerns. This will help you to focus on what is important and what you can do about it. You can then start to prioritize your tasks and set realistic goals.

3. **Set realistic goals:** Break down your tasks into smaller, more manageable steps. This will help you to stay focused and avoid feeling overwhelmed.

4. **Take regular breaks:** Take a break every hour or so to stretch your legs, stretch your mind, and recharge your batteries.

5. **Stay active:** Exercise regularly to improve your mood and reduce stress. This could be anything from walking, running, or cycling to yoga, stretching, or meditation.

6. **Eat healthy:** Eat a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. This will help you to maintain your energy levels and avoid feeling tired or fatigued.

7. **Get enough sleep:** Make sure you get enough sleep each night. Lack of sleep can make you feel tired, irritable, and distracted.

8. **Reduce stress:** Find ways to reduce stress in your life. This could be anything from taking up a new hobby, spending time with friends and family, or practicing relaxation techniques such as deep breathing or meditation.

9. **Seek support:** Don’t be afraid to ask for help. There are many resources available to help you, including your classmates, professors, and the counseling center.

10. **Stay connected:** Keep in touch with friends and family. This will help you to feel supported and reduce feelings of loneliness.

If you feel overwhelmed or anxious, it’s important to take action. Don’t ignore your feelings or try to push through them. Instead, reach out for support and take the steps necessary to care for yourself.
New Year
EXCLUSIVE
Start Your Adventure
POSTGRADUATE EVENTS

Find out how a postgraduate degree could change your future at the University of Lincoln. Our Being Brilliant Brunches and Taster Days provide a unique opportunity to gain professional support and explore your options to further your education.

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