

CAREER FAIRS



AT A GLANCE...

- Practice an elevator pitch.
- Bring hard copies of your resume to give employers.
- Smile, be polite, and be professional to make a good impression.

BYU CAREER FAIRS

Each fall and winter, over 300 employers come to BYU to recruit students, AKA future employees: you could be one of them! Career Fairs are a great starting place to build your network, learn about different companies, or find an internship/full-time job from people that are hiring in your major. However, to succeed at a career fair, you should do some research and preparation.

PREPARING FOR THE FAIRS

The biggest complaint from employers at BYU Career Fairs is that students come to these events completely unprepared. Before you attend a fair, learn how to make a good impression and present yourself to an employer.

HOW TO PREPARE AN ELEVATOR PITCH

You will want to address some but not all of these questions.

PAST

- Where have you worked before?
- What made you interested in this field?

PRESENT

- What are you studying?
- Where are you currently working?
- What skills and experiences make me stand out in my field?

FUTURE

- What are your short-term or long-term career goals?
- Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

ELEVATOR PITCH EXAMPLE

I'm Kaitlyn and I've been a TA in the Math lab for the past three semesters; this semester I'm one of two lead TAs. I really like helping people understand complex technical information, which is why I'm interested in consulting. Could you tell me about some of the projects your past summer interns have worked on?

RESEARCH THE COMPANY

Show them that you know about their company by including stats, facts or attributes of the company that you resonate with. When researching employers, use sites like GlassDoor.com and Handshake.

With the Handshake app, you will be able to find brief descriptions of the company, available positions, and majors each company is interested in hiring, along with a host of other useful Career Fair helps. You don't need to know everything; **focus on just finding enough to hold a decent conversation with someone from the company and ask insightful questions about the organization** (be sure to find open ended questions that can't be answered on the web).

AT THE CAREER FAIR

Now that you've done your research, it's time to plan. Use a map and make a list of which companies you are most interested in. You should have at least 3-5 companies you want to talk to. Maybe even set some goals on how many resumes you want to give out, the number of quality conversations you want to have, etc.

Suggested Preparation Checklist

- Bring multiple copies of your resume.
- Dress as you would for an interview, whether it be business casual or formal.
- Practice your elevator pitch with a Career Mentor. Build your network by asking to connect with them on LinkedIn.

AFTER THE CAREER FAIR

After the fair, your work isn't done yet. Connect with them on LinkedIn and use a thank you note to follow up.

- Practice gratitude -- Thank-you notes are a great way to follow up with anyone who has helped you in the employment process.
- Send your thank-you note within 24 hours of the interaction.
- Choose an appropriate format (Email-business, Text-casual, LinkedIn message-business, Hand-written card-remarkable).
- Keep your thank-you note short, personable, interesting and to the point. (See our Thank You Note Handout on our website)

VIRTUAL CAREER FAIRS:

In addition to our in person fairs, we will be offering virtual career fairs this Fall 2021 and Winter 2022. Please reference our resources and fair information on website for more information.